

Illinois Bicycle Laws

*[Bracketed numbers are
Vehicle Code 625 ILCS]*

Bicyclist's Status – Traffic laws apply to persons riding bicycles. Bicyclists riding on a highway are granted all of the rights and are subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle, with certain exceptions. [5/11-1502]

Lane Positioning – When riding on roadways and bicycle paths at less than normal traffic speed, ride as close as practicable and safe to the right-hand curb or edge of roadway except:

1. When overtaking and passing another bicycle or vehicle proceeding in the same direction; or
2. When preparing for a left turn; or
3. When reasonably necessary to avoid fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, bicycles, motorized pedal cycles, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards, or substandard width

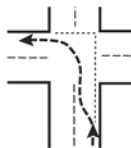
lanes that make it unsafe to continue along the right-hand curb or edge. A "substandard width lane" means a lane that is too narrow for a bicycle and a vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane.

4. When approaching a place where a right turn is authorized.

5. When riding on a one-way highway with two or more marked traffic lanes. Here, bicyclists may ride as near the left-hand curb or edge of such roadway as practicable. [5/11-1505]

Left Turns – Bicyclists may choose between a vehicular-style left turn or a pedestrian-style left turn [5/11-1510].

For vehicular-style left turns, proceed as if driving a vehicle, moving to the left lane or the left side of a single lane prior to the intersection [5/11-801]. For pedestrian-style left-turns, riding near the right side of the roadway, cross the intersecting



roadway, stop (as much as practicable out of the way of traffic), yield to any traffic and proceed in the new direction, while obeying any official traffic control device or police officer. [5/11-1510]

Riding Two Abreast – Riding two abreast is permitted as long as the normal and reasonable movement of traffic is not impeded. Riding more than two abreast is prohibited except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. [5/11-1505.1]

Hand Signals – Signals shall be given from the left side as follows: Left turn – hand and arm extended horizontally. Right turn – hand and arm extended upward, except bicyclists may extend the right hand and arm horizontally and to the right side of the bicycle. Stop or decrease of speed – hand and arm extended downward. [5/11-806] Signal not less than the last 100 feet before the turn, and while the bicycle is

stopped waiting to turn. Signals need not be given continuously if the hand is needed in the control of operation of the bicycle. [5/11-1511]

Use of Sidewalks – Local ordinance may prohibit bicyclists from using sidewalks. Where permitted, bicyclists must yield to pedestrians and give audible signals before passing pedestrians. Bicyclists using sidewalks have all the rights and duties of pedestrians. [5/11-1512]

Lights and Other Equipment on Bicycles – For night riding, a front lamp with a white light visible from at least 500 feet to the front and a red reflector on the rear visible from 100 feet to 600 feet are required. A rear light visible from 500 feet may be used in addition to the red reflector. Equipment required on new bicycles sold includes pedal reflectors, side reflectors and an essentially colorless front facing reflector. [5/11-1507]

Two or More on a Bike – Bicycles shall not be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped, except that an adult rider may carry child securely attached to his person in a back pack or sling. [5/11-1503]

Parental Responsibility – The parent of any child and the guardian of any ward shall not authorize or knowingly permit any such child or ward to violate any of the provision of this Code. [5/11-1501]

Cars passing bikes – The operator of a motor vehicle overtaking a bicycle shall leave a safe distance, but not less than 3 feet, when passing the bicycle and shall maintain that distance until safely past the overtaken bicycle. [5/11-703(d)]

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To promote safety on the road, the League of Illinois Bicyclists presents excerpts from **the Illinois Vehicle Code.**

LIB urges motorists to pay attention, be alert for bikes and share the road (see bikelib.org/video). We urge bicyclists to be predictable and observe traffic laws – your actions affect public opinion.

We encourage bicyclists to wear a helmet for protection against head injuries.



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