

## Illinois Bicycle Laws

[Bracketed numbers are Vehicle Code 625 ILCS]

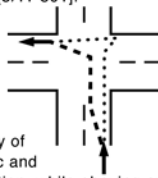
**Bicyclist's Status-**Traffic laws apply to persons riding bicycles. Bicyclists riding on a highway are granted all of the rights and are subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle, with certain exceptions. [5/11-1502]

**Lane Positioning-**When riding on roadways and bicycle paths at less than normal traffic speed, ride as close as practicable 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 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 2 Abreast-** Riding 2 abreast is permitted as long as the normal and reasonable movement of traffic is not impeded. Riding more than 2 abreast is prohibited except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. [5/11-1505.1]

**Hand Signals-** Bicyclists are required to give the same turn signals as motorists. [5/11-804]. Signal not less than the last 100 feet before the turn, and while the bicycle stopped waiting to turn. Signals need not be given continuously if the hand is needed in the control or operation of the bicycle. [5/11-1511]

#1. Print page 1 only.

#2. Remove above printed page from printer and re-insert the page to print on the reverse side.

#3. Print page 2 only.

#4. Trim on line.

#5. Fold to fit wallet.

**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 a 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 provisions of this Code. [5/11-1501]

**These excerpts from the Illinois Vehicle Code** are brought to you by the League of Illinois Bicyclists, the state-wide advocacy voice for all Illinois bicyclists, promoting bicycle access, education, and safety.

For your safety, we urge you to observe the Illinois bicycle laws when you ride. We also encourage you to protect your head by wearing a helmet.



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