



# Senate Bill 80

## Bicycle Safety - Traffic Law Changes

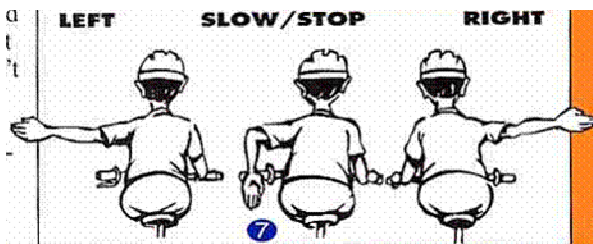
League of Illinois Bicyclists – 630-978-0583

### 1) Three foot clearance when passing a bicycle.

Motorists “squeezing by” bicyclists create a dangerous situation with no maneuvering room for bikes to avoid hazards. Many motorists do not know a minimum safe passing clearance. Others intentionally pass too closely, to harass cyclists.

**This proposal *does not* create new passing requirements that do not already exist.** By law, vehicles – including bikes – must be passed at a safe distance. These laws merely **clarify** existing law on safe passing distance, as applied to bikes.

States with recent 3’ passing laws: FL, MN, OK, AZ, WI, UT, and WV. Several others have bills this year.



### 2) Right turn hand signal.

Adds this option for signaling a right turn. This is more easily understood, and already suggested unofficially. At least 23 other states have changed their laws to legally permit this.

### 3) Clarify “Bicycles to Far Right” rule.

Bike position in a lane is legally “as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge” with some standard exceptions.

Adding the exception “when approaching a place where a right turn is authorized” clarifies proper position (illustrated) to avoid crashes with right-turning motorists. When going straight, bikes near the curb or in a right-turn lane are more likely to be cut off.

Also, “practicable” is often misinterpreted as “possible.” Adding “and safe” reinforces the exceptions while providing flexibility.

