

State Vehicle Code (bicycle section):

<http://www.legis.state.il.us/legislation/ilcs/ch625/ch625act5articles/ch625act5Sub66.htm>

Please send new info. or direct questions to Fred Oswald, <fredoswald@yahoo.com>

We need someone to check the rest of the Illinois traffic laws.

Rating of Illinois Bicycle Traffic Laws

Illinois Bicycle Traffic Laws earn a **TENTATIVE rating of D- (50 points)**

Note: A bicycle IS (NOT) defined as a vehicle in Illinois.

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| A: 91 points or above | (89-90 is A-, over 99 is A+) |
| B: 79 to 86 points | (87-88 is B+, 77-78 is B-) |
| C: 66 to 74 points | (75-76 is C+, 64-65 is C-) |
| D: 52 to 61 points | (62-63 is D+, 50-51 is D-) |
| F: 40 to 49 points | (48-49 is F+, below 40 points is F-) |

| Traffic Law Defects | |
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| | Mandates riding wrong way (Automatic failing score) [-100] |
| | Mandates riding on sidewalk (creates failing score) [-80] |
| | Prohibits bicycles from all main streets (a “stealth” sidewalk law) [-80] |
| | Lower deduction if prohibition applies only where speed limit is above 50 mph [-30] |
| | Lower deduction if engineering study, alternate route & signs reqd. [-30] |
| | Mandates riding on sidewalk only for under age 16 [-30] |
| | Mandates riding on sidepath, shoulder or bike lane [-40] |
| | Lower deduction if applies only where sidepath is “usable” and signed [-25] |
| | Restriction only for under age 16 [-25] |
| | Lower deduction if includes UVC “far right” type exceptions [-20] |
| | Lower deduction if also includes CA “right turn authorized” exceptions [-15] |
| | Unlimited local “regulation of the operation of bicycles” (non-uniform laws) [-30] |
| | Lower deduction if allows only local sidepath ordinance. [-20] |
| | Allows local bicycle ban only on major highway [-15] |
| -30 | Cyclists on road are not due “ordinary care” under the law [-30] <i>This is from “case law”, the infamous Boub case, which said that cyclists are not “intended” road users.</i> |
| -10 | “Shall ride within 3 feet of right edge of road” (or similar unsafe rule) [-25] “Shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb”, with no exceptions [-20] Lower deduction if includes all UVC exceptions [-10] Sec. 11-1505. Position of bicycles and motorized pedal cycles on roadways -Riding on roadways and bicycle paths. (a) Any person operating a bicycle or motorized pedal cycle upon a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway except under the following situations: ... |
| | Mandatory helmet law that includes adult cyclists [-20] |
| | Lower deduction if applies only to children under 12 [-15] |
| | Lower still if also includes strong “contributory negligence” exclusion [-5] |
| | Prohibits normal vehicular left turn [-10] |

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| | “Shall ride single file” (no exceptions) Lower deduction depending on exceptions | [-10] [-5] |
| | Motor vehicle restrictions that should not apply to bicycles: (following too closely, racing, etc.) | [up to -5] |
| | Irresponsible brake requirements (skid braked wheel) | [-3] |
| -1 | “Nuisance” safety equipment required (bell, front, wheel & pedal reflectors, etc) (Nuisance equip. requirements for selling bicycles & pedals.) | [-2] |
| ?? | Right-arm right turn signal not authorized | [-2] |
| -2 | Unreasonable turn signal requirement (continuous, or even if not safe) Sec. 11-1511. Turn and stop signals. (b) A signal of intention to turn right or left when required shall be given during not less than the last 100 feet traveled by the bicycle before turning, and shall be given while the bicycle is stopped waiting to turn. A signal by hand and arm need not be given continuously if the hand is needed in the control or operation of the bicycle. | [-2] |
| -2 | Authorizes bicycle-specific traffic control devices The people who place bicycle-specific traffic control devices mentioned in (c) are generally untrained in bicycle operation. Such bicycle “traffic control” is discriminatory and often requires practices more dangerous than that prohibited. The language in (b) can be misunderstood to prohibit a vehicular style turn. Sec. 11-1510. Left Turns. (a) A person riding a bicycle or motorized pedalcycle intending to turn left shall follow a course described in Section 11-801 or in paragraph (b) of this Section. (b) A person riding a bicycle or motorized pedalcycle intending to turn left shall approach the turn as close as practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway. After proceeding across the intersecting roadway to the far corner of the curb or intersection of the roadway edges, the bicyclist or motorized pedalcycle driver shall stop, as much as practicable out of the way of traffic. After stopping the person shall yield to any traffic proceeding in either direction along the roadway such person had been using. After yielding, the bicycle or motorized pedalcycle driver shall comply with any official traffic control device or police officer regulating traffic on the highway along which he intends to proceed, and the bicyclist or motorized pedalcycle driver may proceed in the new direction. (c) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the Department and local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may cause official traffic-control devices to be placed and thereby require and direct that a specific course be traveled by turning bicycles and motorized pedalcycles, and when such devices are so placed, no person shall turn a bicycle or motorized pedalcycle other than as directed and required by such devices. | [-2] |
| ?? | Local authorities may mandate registration (rather than voluntary program) | [-1] |
| ?? | Lacks provision allowing bicycle access to freeway shoulders | [-1] |
| -1 | Slow vehicle “as close as practicable to the right-hand curb” | [-1] |
| -1 | Missing language “intent is to facilitate overtaking” in slow veh. rule | [-1] |
| -1 | Other excessive or unnecessary regulation Sec. 11-1506. Carrying articles. No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the use of both hands in the control and operation of the bicycle. A person operating a bicycle shall keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times. | |

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| -3 | Minor Defects (scored as a group, Y=Yes) | |
| Y | Lacks provision allowing preparing for left turn early | |
| Y | Lacks exception to no-passing zone rule for passing of slow vehicles | |
| Y | Lacks language prohibiting “points” for bicycle violations | |
| | “Give way to the right on audible signal” | |
| Y | Lacks cycling skills course for violators | |
| Y | Police authorized to inspect bicycles Sec. 11-1509. Inspecting bicycles <i>A uniformed police officer may at any time upon reasonable cause to believe that a bicycle is unsafe or not equipped as required by law, or that its equipment is not in proper adjustment or repair, require the person riding the bicycle to stop and submit the bicycle to an inspection and such test with reference thereto as may be appropriate.</i> | |
| Y | Lacks child seat or trailer language or allow child in backpack Sec. 11-1503. Riding on bicycles. (a) A person propelling a bicycle shall not ride other than upon or astride a permanent and regular seat attached thereto. (b) No bicycle shall 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. | |
| Y | Lacks language authorizing additional lights or reflectors | |
| Y | Lacks language saying riding two abreast does not impede traffic if no conflicting traffic | |
| ?? | Poor definition of bicycle (not recognizing recumbents or trikes) | |
| Positive Factors (points added) | | |
| ?? | Have issued a good state “Bicycle Drivers' Manual” and/or --- Drivers Handbook has vehicular cycling info. | [up to +15] |
| ?? | Permits <u>and</u> requires motorists to merge into a bike lane before turning. | [+2] |
| ?? | Expressly permits but does not require cycling on the shoulder. | [+2] |
| N | Local authorities may reduce the fine for bicycling offenses | [+2] |
| ?? | Share the road license plate (or similar) with proceeds to benefit cycling | [+2] |
| N | Language to discourage unsafe sidewalk riding | [+2] |
| +1 | Other good language Sec. 11-1513. Bicycle parking. (a) A person may park a bicycle on a sidewalk unless prohibited or restricted by an official traffic-control device. (b) A bicycle parked on a sidewalk shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of pedestrian or other traffic. (c) A bicycle may be parked on the roadway at any angle to the curb or edge of the roadway at any location where parking is allowed. (d) A bicycle may be parked on the roadway abreast of another bicycle or bicycles near the side of the roadway at any location where parking is allowed. | |

(e) A person shall not park a bicycle on a roadway in such a manner as to obstruct the movement of a legally parked motor vehicle.

(f) In all other respects, bicycles parked anywhere on a highway shall conform with the provisions of this Code regulating the parking of vehicles.

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