



We're leading the movement to build a Bicycle-Friendly America for Everyone

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Dear Senate Transportation, Technology & Legislative Affairs Committee:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 388, An Act Concerning Bicycle Safety. This Act is likely to improve the safety of bicyclists by promoting the use of side streets and lessening the time that bicyclists are exposed to dangers at intersections. It would do so by allowing bicyclists to make safe decisions about how to proceed at stop signs and red lights when traffic is not present or does not pose a hazard. This is particularly useful where neighborhood streets have numerous stop signs to slow motor vehicle traffic, discouraging their use as alternative routes.

The League of American Bicyclists (League) initially opposed the “Idaho Stop” law that is substantially similar to the laws proposed by Senate Bill 388. In 1982, when this type of law was proposed in Idaho, the League was concerned about how the law would affect bicyclist safety and culture.

Over the last 37 years, experience has shown that there have not been negative effects for bicyclists in Idaho. Today, under laws similar to those proposed in Senate Bill 388, Idaho had one of the 5 highest rates of biking to work and one of the 10 lowest rates of bicyclist fatalities over the last decade. While studies are limited, a review of research included in a 2017 article published in the Chicago-Kent Law Review, “[Roll On, Cyclist: The Idaho Rule, Traffic Law, and the Quest to Incentivize Urban Cycling](#),” shows that evidence points to positive safety and cultural effects.

In the last 37 years, numerous states have adopted laws to deal with red lights that do not detect bicyclists or make bicyclists wait an unreasonable time. In recent years, Delaware and numerous local jurisdictions in Colorado have taken steps towards “Idaho stop” laws. Senate Bill 388 would continue this trend of recognizing the benefits of this type of legislation and the ability of people who bike to choose how to safely yield at intersections.

The League is glad to support Senate Bill 388. We strongly urge the members of the Transportation, Technology & Legislative Affairs Committee and all legislators in Arkansas to support this bill. Please contact me at ken@bikeleague.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ken McLeod
Policy Director