



# BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE

## SIDEWALK RIDING LAWS

The League of American Bicyclists recommends that bicyclists ride on the road. Riding on the sidewalk is a significant cause of bicyclist-motorist crashes and creates unnecessary conflicts with pedestrians. However, there may be appropriate times to ride on a sidewalk or crosswalk, such as when crossing an unsafe high speed roadway or when the adjacent roadway is not suited for the comfort, skill, or ability level of the rider. When a bicyclist chooses to ride on a sidewalk or crosswalk, sidewalk riding laws provide rules and expectations for pedestrians, motorists, and bicyclists regarding how each mode will interact. Learn more at [bikeleague.org/bike-law-university](http://bikeleague.org/bike-law-university).

| State                | Basic Rule  |                                     |  | Rights and Duties on Sidewalks |              |                         |               |                                 |                                 |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                      | Prohibited from Sidewalks   | Permitted on Sidewalks              | Rules Extend to Crosswalks                           | Rights & duties of Ped         | Yield to Ped | Required Audible Signal | Speed Limited | Prohibited in Business District | Prohibited w/Signs by ordinance |
| Alabama              | 32-5A-52 (as vehicles)  |                                     | Not unless crosswalks are within the "sidewalk area" |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                 |
| Alaska               |   | 13 AAC 02.400(d) & (g)              | Not unless crosswalks are within the "sidewalk area" |                                | X            | X                       |               | X                               | X                               |
| Arizona              | 28-904 (Unclear - vehicles are prohibited, but bicycle are not vehicles)    |                                     | By case law permitted on crosswalks.                 |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                 |
| Arkansas             | No law found  |                                     |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                 |
| California           | VC 21663 (Unclear - vehicles are prohibited, but bicycles are not vehicles) |                                     |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 | 21206                           |
| Colorado             |   | 42-4-710(3); 42-4-1412              | X  | X                              | X            |                         |               |                                 | X                               |
| Connecticut          |   | 14-286                              | X  |                                | X            | X                       |               |                                 | X                               |
| Delaware             | Where bike lane exists in a business district                               | 21:§4136; 21:§4198B                 | X  | X                              | X            | X                       |               | X                               | X                               |
| District of Columbia |   | DC Rule 18-1201.9-13                | 1201.11 (must yield to peds in crosswalk)            |                                | X            | X                       | X             | X (unless otherwise signed)     | X                               |
| Florida              |   | 316.2065(9) - (11)                  | X  | X                              | X            | X                       |               |                                 |                                 |
| Georgia              | § 40-6-144 (as vehicles)  | Children 12 and under are permitted |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                 |

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| Hawaii        |  | §291C-148              |  |                                | X            |                         | X             | X                               | X                               |
| Idaho         |  | 49-721                 | X  | X                              | X            | X                       |               |                                 | X                               |
| Illinois      |  | 11-1512                | X  | X                              | X            | X                       |               |                                 | X                               |
| Indiana       | No law found   |                        |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                 |
| Iowa          | No law found   |                        |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                 |
| Kansas        | 8-1575 (Unclear - vehicles are prohibited, but bicycles are not vehicles)  |                        |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                 |
| Kentucky      | 189.570(7) (as vehicles)   |                        |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                 |
| Louisiana     | No law found   |                        |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                 |
| Maine         | No law found   |                        |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                 |
| Maryland      | § 21-1103  |                        | Not unless crosswalks are within the "sidewalk area" |                                |              |                         |               |                                 | May be permitted by ordinance   |
| Massachusetts |  | Ch. 85, §11B           |  |                                | X            | X                       |               | X                               | X                               |
| Michigan      |  | 257.660c               | X  | X                              | X            | X                       |               |                                 | X                               |
| Minnesota     |  | 169.222(4)(d) - (f)    | X  |                                | X            | X                       | X             | X                               | X                               |
| Mississippi   | No law found   |                        |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                 |
| Missouri      |  | 300.347                |  |                                | X            | X                       |               | X                               |                                 |
| Montana       |  | 61-8-608               | X  | X                              | X            | X                       |               |                                 | X                               |
| Nebraska      |  | 60-6,317(4)            | 60-6,154(4)  | X                              | X            |                         |               |                                 |                                 |
| Nevada        | 484.451 (Unclear - vehicles are prohibited, but bicycles are not vehicles) |                        |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                 |
| New Hampshire | 265:26-a (as vehicles)   |                        |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                 |

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| New Jersey     |   | Permitted by case law  |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                     |
| New Mexico     | 66-7-361(b) (Unclear - vehicles are prohibited, but bicycles are not vehicles)        |                        |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                     |
| New York       | 25:1225-a (Unclear - vehicles are prohibited, but bicycles are not vehicles)          |                        |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                     |
| North Carolina | 20-160(b) (as vehicles)   |                        |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                     |
| North Dakota   | 39-10-52.1 (as vehicles)  |                        |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                     |
| Ohio           |   | 4511.711               |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 | x (may not require sidewalk riding) |
| Oklahoma       | No law found  |                        |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                     |
| Oregon         |   | 814.41                 | 814.410(2) ped rights & duties apply in crosswalks | x                              | x            | x                       | x             |                                 |                                     |
| Pennsylvania   | Where bike lane exists  | 75: 3508               |  |                                | x            | x                       |               | x (may be altered by sign)      |                                     |
| Rhode Island   |   | § 31-19-11             | x  | x                              | x            | x                       |               |                                 | x                                   |
| South Carolina | 56-5-3835 (Unclear - vehicles are prohibited, but bicycles are not vehicles)          |                        |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                     |
| South Dakota   |   | 32-20B-2; 32-20B-3     | x  | x                              | x            | x                       |               |                                 |                                     |
| Tennessee      | 7-31-106 (as vehicles)  |                        |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                     |
| Texas          | 545.422(a) (Unclear - Likely permitted because statute prohibits motor vehicles only) |                        |  |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                     |

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| Utah          |   | 41-6a-1106; 41-6a-1702 | X                          | X                              | X            | X                       | X             |                                 | X                               |
| Vermont       | 23: 1132 (Unclear - vehicles are prohibited, but bicycles are not vehicles) |                        |                            |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                 |
| Virginia      |   | § 46.2-904             | X                          | X                              | X            | X                       |               |                                 | X                               |
| Washington    |   | 46.61.261; 46.61.755   | X                          | X                              | X            |                         |               |                                 |                                 |
| West Virginia | No law found  |                        |                            |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                 |
| Wisconsin     |   | 346.804                |                            |                                | X            | X                       |               |                                 |                                 |
| Wyoming       | 31-5-120 (as vehicles)  |                        |                            |                                |              |                         |               |                                 |                                 |

## SPOTLIGHT STATE - UTAH

Utah clearly navigates the hybrid nature of bicycling on sidewalks using statutes that address a bicycle as a vehicle, as a quasi-pedestrian, and as its own entity. In Utah, bicycles are vehicles and vehicles are prohibited from operating on sidewalks. However, bicycles are explicitly allowed to ride on sidewalks in the same statute that prohibits vehicles from doing so. In a separate statute the rights and duties of a bicyclist on a sidewalk are given. In general, bicyclists have all the rights and duties applicable to pedestrians on a sidewalk, path, trail or crosswalk, but there are several exceptions. These exceptions generally do one of two things:

1. Give priority to pedestrians
2. Establish rules specific to bicycles on a sidewalk

Upon the shared space of a sidewalk, path, trail, or crosswalk a bicyclist is most likely to be the largest, fastest moving user of that shared space, with the most potential to injure another user of that space. The exceptions that are found in Utah's law reflect the idea that a more dangerous user of a shared space should be subject to rules that account for that danger.