



# ALASKA BICYCLE LAWS

AUGUST 2003

## RIDING LAWFULLY IN ALASKA

There are a few rules of the road that you should be aware of, especially if you are riding in urban or downtown areas. The State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety is the agency responsible for the Alaska State Bicycle Laws. The following is a compilation of Alaska's bicycle laws:

**13 AAC 02.385. Applicability of Regulations To Bicycles.** a) Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway has all the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle as set out in this chapter, in addition to special regulations in secs. 385-420 of this chapter, except as to those provisions of this chapter which by their nature have no application.

b) No person may violate the provisions of secs. 385-420 of this chapter. The parent or guardian of a child may not authorize or knowingly permit a child to violate a provision of this chapter.

c) when signs are erected indicating that no right, left, or U-turn is permitted, no person operating a bicycle may disobey the direction of this sign unless first pulling to the extreme right or shoulder of the road, dismounting and making the turn as a pedestrian.

**13 AAC 02.395. Riding On Bicycles And Certain Non-motorized Conveyances.** b) No person operating a bicycle upon a highway may carry a person other than the operator, unless the bicycle is equipped with a seat for the passenger, except that an adult rider may carry a child securely attached to his person in a backpack or sling.

c) No person operating a bicycle or other non-motorized conveyance may attach, hold on by hand or otherwise secure the bicycle or conveyance or himself to another vehicle so as to be towed or pulled.

d) A person operating a bicycle upon a highway shall maintain control of the bicycle and shall at all times keep at least one hand upon the handlebars of the bicycle.

e) No person may operate a unicycle, coaster, roller skates, or similar device on a highway.

f) this section does not apply upon a roadway closed to motorized vehicle traffic.

**13 AAC 02.400. Riding Bicycles On Roadways And Bicycle Paths.** a) A person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, and shall give way to the right as far as practicable to a motor vehicle proceeding in the same direction when the driver of the motor vehicle gives audible signal.



## STATE OF ALASKA BICYCLE LAW SUMMARY

There are several laws that govern how we ride a bicycle on a roadway. Here are a few important points to remember:

- ⇒ Ride on the right side of roadways.
- ⇒ Ride with traffic.
- ⇒ Use signals to turn, slow, and stop.
- ⇒ Obey all traffic signs and signals.
- ⇒ Give pedestrians the right-of-way.

Remember Alaska bicycle laws require you to follow the same traffic laws as a motorized vehicle.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

YOUR LOCAL LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE OR THE JUNEAU LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE 907-465-4648

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RIDING LAWFULLY

13 AAC 02.400. Riding Bicycles On Roadways And Bicycle Paths.

b) Persons riding bicycles on a roadway may not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles. Persons riding bicycles two abreast may not impede traffic and, in a laned roadway, shall ride within the farthest right lane.

c) When a shoulder of the highway is maintained in good condition, an operator of a bicycle shall use the shoulder of the roadway.

d) A person operating a bicycle on a trail, path, sidewalk, or sidewalk area shall

- 1) exercises care to avoid colliding with other persons or vehicles;
2) give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian, and
3) yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian.

f) A person riding a bicycle intending to turn left shall, unless he dismounts and crosses as a pedestrian, comply with the provision of sec. 200 of this chapter. the operator of a bicycle must give a signal by hand and arm continuously during the last 100 feet traveled unless the hand is needed in the control or operation of the bicycle. When stopped to await an opportunity to turn, a hand and arm signal must be given continuously by the operator.

g) No person may ride a bicycle upon a sidewalk in a business district or where prohibited by an official traffic-control device.

h) No bicycle race may be conducted upon a roadway, except as provided under AS 05.35.

13 AAC 02.420. Parking Of Bicycles. a) No person may park a bicycle on a street or sidewalk in a manner which obstructs pedestrian traffic or the parking and driving of motor vehicles.

b) No person may secure a bicycle to any of the following publicly owned facilities:

- 1) fire hydrants;
2) police and fire call boxes;
3) electric traffic signal poles;
4) stanchions or poles located within bus zones or stands;
5) stanchions or poles located within 25 feet of an intersection; or
6) trees under 10 inches in diameter.

c) A bicycle parked on a highway must comply with the provisions of this chapter regulating the parking of vehicles.

13 AAC 04.320. Headlights. c) A bicycle, when ridden at the times when lights are required under 13AAC 04.010(a) (1) & (2), must be equipped with at least one light on the front of the bicycle, emitting white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet in front of the bicycle under normal atmosphere conditions.

13 AAC 04.325. Taillights. a) A bicycle must be equipped with a taillight which displays a red light visible 500 feet to the rear of a bicycle.

13 AAC 04.335. Reflectors. b) Every bicycle, when ridden at a time when lights are required under 13AAC 04.010, must be equipped with a red reflector on the rear of the bicycle and reflective material visible from the sides of the bicycle meeting the visibility requirements of 13AAC 04.010 (a) of this chapter. Nothing in this subsection prohibits the use of additional reflectors or reflective materials upon a bicycle.

13 AAC 04.340. Brakes. b) Every bicycle must be equipped with a brake system, maintained in good working condition, which will enable its driver to stop the bicycle within 25 feet from a speed of 10 miles per hour on dry, level, clean pavement.

13 AAC 40.010. Definitions. 5) "bicycle means a vehicle propelled exclusively by human power upon which a person may ride, having two tandem wheels or three wheels in contact with the ground, except scooters and similar devices;

(Summary provided by the Alaska State Troopers)