



BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE

MANDATORY USE OF BICYCLE FACILITIES LAWS

In the 1970s, mandatory use laws of some sort existed in 38 states. Since that time many cycling advocates and state legislatures have worked together to repeal many of those laws. The League of American Bicyclists believes that cyclists have a fundamental right to the road and supports the continued repeal of these laws.

In 1944 §11-1205(c) was added to the Uniform Vehicle Code (UVC) and contained a mandatory sidepath provision. By 1979, only 12 states did not have a law similar to the mandatory sidepath provision set out in §11-1205(c). In 1979, §11-1205(c) was eliminated from the UVC. As of the last revision to the UVC in 2000, there are no UVC sections equivalent to either a mandatory bike path or bike lane use law. Learn more at bikeleague.org/bike-law-university.

State	Statute	Type of Facilities Bicyclists are Required to Use			Standard for quality of facility	Number of Exceptions
		Bike Lanes	Bike Paths	Shoulders		
Alabama	32-5A-263(c)		x		Usable	None
Alaska	13 AAC 02.400			x	Good condition	1
Arizona	Law repealed after 1979					
Arkansas						
California	21208	x			No standard	5
Colorado						
Connecticut	14-298-238		x		No standard	None
Delaware						
District of Columbia						
Florida	316.2065(5)	x			Marked	4
Georgia	§ 40-6-294		x (enables local laws only)		AASHTO standard (citizens may petition for review)	None
Hawaii	§291C-145(c)	x			Usable	4
Idaho	Law repealed after 1979					
Illinois	Law repealed after 1979					
Indiana						
Iowa						
Kansas	8-1590(d)		x		Usable (must be dedicated to bikes only, not shared use)	None
Kentucky	601 KAR 14:020 §7(1)(b)	x			Marked	6
Louisiana	Law repealed after 1979					

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State	Statute	Bike Lanes	Bike Paths	Shoulders	Standard for quality of facility	Number of Exceptions
Maine						
Maryland	§ 21-1205.1	x			Paved to a smooth surface	4
Massachusetts						
Michigan	Law repealed after 1979					
Minnesota						
Mississippi						
Missouri	Law repealed after 1979					
Montana	Law repealed after 1979					
Nebraska	Law repealed in 2016					
Nevada	Law repealed after 1979					
New Hampshire	Law repealed after 1979					
New Jersey	Law repealed after 1979					
New Mexico	Law repealed after 1979					
New York	§ 1234(a)	x			Usable	2
North Carolina						
North Dakota	Law repealed after 1979					
Ohio						
Oklahoma	725:30-26-13(6) (only applicable in state parks)		x		Usable	None
Oregon	814.420	x	x		Suitable for safe use at reasonable speeds	4
Pennsylvania	Law repealed after 1979					
Rhode Island	Law repealed after 1979					
South Carolina	56-5-3425	x			No standard	2
South Dakota						
Tennessee	Law repealed after 1979					
Texas	Law repealed after 1979					
Utah	41-6a-1105(4)		x (enables local laws only)		Usable	None
Vermont	Law repealed after 1979					

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State	Statute	Bike Lanes	Bike Paths	Shoulders	Standard for quality of facility	Number of Exceptions
Virginia					Law repealed after 1979	
Washington					Law repealed after 1979	
West Virginia					Law repealed after 1979	
Wisconsin					Law repealed after 1979	
Wyoming					Law repealed after 1979	

INFORMATION ON WHY PEOPLE MAY NOT USE BICYCLE LANES OR SHARED USE PATHS WHEN PROVIDED

Where states require the use of bicycle lanes or shared use paths, many of these states also provide exceptions to their mandatory use laws to address the many situations in which strict application of the law would be unsafe or impractical. The exceptions below are meant to be descriptive and you should consult your state's law for the particular language.

States with Exceptions to their Mandatory Use Law(s)	
Avoiding hazards (such as parked cars) or hazardous roadway conditions	California, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, New York, Oregon, and South Carolina
Making a left turn	California, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, New York, and Oregon
Passing another bicycle or vehicle	California, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, Oregon, and South Carolina
Operating at or above the rate of speed of normal traffic flow on the roadway	California, Florida, and Hawaii
Avoiding a right hook while proceeding straight and there is a right turn lane	California, Maryland, and Oregon
States Lacking Exceptions to their Mandatory Use Law	
No exceptions and law applies to all bike lanes, paths, or shoulders in state	Alabama, Alaska, and Kentucky
No exceptions, but law only applies to limited types of bike lanes or paths in state	Connecticut, Kansas, and Oklahoma
No exceptions, but law only enables local regulation and does not create any mandatory use requirement by itself	Georgia and Utah

According to [NHTSA](#), the most common reason that bicyclists do not use bike lanes or paths is that they "Don't go where I need to go." States that want bicyclists to use these facilities should focus on providing complete and high quality networks to encourage the use of these facilities, rather than mandating their use.