

**A Sampling of
Utah State Bicycle Laws
As of November 2005**

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11-21-1. Cities and counties to require licensing of cycles by dealers -- "Cycle" defined.

- (1) All county, city and town governments shall by ordinance or otherwise require all cycle dealers operating within their jurisdiction:
- (a) to license, or arrange to have licensed at the time of purchase all cycles sold by them;
 - (b) to keep records on all cycles sold and to furnish, within thirty days of sale, their respective city or county police departments with the following information:
 - (i) name and address of the retailer;
 - (ii) year and make of the cycle;
 - (iii) general description of the cycle;
 - (iv) frame number; and
 - (v) name and address of the purchaser;
 - (c) to not sell any cycle which does not have a serial number on its frame. Where the cycle has no serial or frame numbers the dealer shall be required to stamp or have stamped on the frame the number of the license to be issued for that cycle, the year in which the license was issued or year of expiration of license and the abbreviation for the city or county regulating the dealer.
- (2) As used in this section, "cycle" means a device upon which any person may ride, propelled by human power through a belt, chain or gears and having one or more wheels in tandem or other arrangement. Cycles with wheels of at least twenty inches in diameter and frame size of at least fourteen inches shall be subject to this section. Others may be licensed by owner upon request.

41-6a-102. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

- (4) (a) "Bicycle" means every device:
- (i) propelled by human power;
 - (ii) upon which a person may ride; and
 - (iii) having two tandem wheels.
- (b) "Bicycle" does not include scooters and similar devices.
- (70) "Vehicle" means a device in, on, or by which a person or property is or may be transported or drawn on a highway, except devices used exclusively on stationary rails or tracks.

41-6a-208. Regulatory powers of local highway authorities -- Traffic-control device affecting state highway -- Necessity of erecting traffic-control devices.

(1) The provisions of this chapter do not prevent a local highway authority for a highway under its jurisdiction and within the reasonable exercise of police power, from: (h) regulating the operation of a bicycle and requiring the registration and inspection of bicycles, including requiring a registration fee;

41-6a-706.5. Operation of motor vehicle near bicycle prohibited.

An operator of a motor vehicle may not knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly operate a motor vehicle within three feet of a moving bicycle, unless the operator of the motor vehicle operates the motor vehicle within a reasonable and safe distance of the bicycle.

41-6a-804. Turning or changing lanes -- Safety -- Signals -- Stopping or sudden decrease in speed -- Signal flashing -- Where prohibited.

(3) (a) A stop or turn signal when required shall be given either by the hand and arm or by signal lamps.

(b) If hand and arm signals are used, a person operating a vehicle shall give the required hand and arm signals from the left side of the vehicle as follows:

(i) Left turn: hand and arm extended horizontally;

(ii) Right turn: hand and arm extended upward; and

(iii) Stop or decrease speed: hand and arm extended downward.

(c) (i) A person operating a bicycle or device propelled by human power may give the required hand and arm signals for a right turn by extending the right hand and arm horizontally to the right.

(ii) This Subsection (3)(c) is an exception to the provision of Subsection (3)(b)(ii).

41-6a-1102. Bicycle and device propelled by human power and moped riders subject to chapter -- Exception.

(1) Except as provided under Subsection (2) or as otherwise specified under this part, a person operating a bicycle, a vehicle or device propelled by human power, or a moped has all the rights and is subject to the provisions of this chapter applicable to the operator of any other vehicle.

(2) A person operating a nonmotorized bicycle or a vehicle or device propelled by human power is not subject to the penalties related to operator licenses under alcohol and drug-related traffic offenses.

41-6a-1103. Carrying more persons than design permits prohibited -- Exception.

(1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), a bicycle or moped may not be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed or equipped.

(2) An adult rider may carry a child securely attached to the adult rider's person in a back pack or sling.

41-6a-1104. Persons on bicycles, mopeds, skates, and sleds not to attach to moving vehicles -- Exception.

- (1) A person riding a bicycle, moped, coaster, skate board, roller skates, sled, or toy vehicle may not attach it or a person to any moving vehicle on a highway.
- (2) This section does not prohibit attaching a trailer or semitrailer to a bicycle or moped if that trailer or semitrailer has been designed for attachment.

41-6a-1105. Operation of bicycle or moped on and use of roadway -- Duties, prohibitions.

- (1) A person operating a bicycle or a moped on a roadway at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall ride as near as practicable to the right-hand edge of the roadway except when:
 - (a) overtaking and passing another bicycle or vehicle proceeding in the same direction;
 - (b) preparing to make a left turn at an intersection or into a private road or driveway;
 - (c) traveling straight through an intersection that has a right-turn only lane that is in conflict with the straight through movement; or
 - (d) reasonably necessary to avoid conditions that make it unsafe to continue along the right-hand edge of the roadway including:
 - (i) fixed or moving objects;
 - (ii) parked or moving vehicles;
 - (iii) bicycles;
 - (iv) pedestrians;
 - (v) animals;
 - (vi) surface hazards; or
 - (vii) a lane that is too narrow for a bicycle and a vehicle to travel safely side by side within the lane.
- (2) A person operating a bicycle or moped on a highway shall operate in the designated direction of traffic.
- (3) (a) A person riding a bicycle or moped on a roadway may not ride more than two abreast with another person except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.
 - (b) If allowed under Subsection (3)(a), a person riding two abreast with another person may not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic and shall ride within a single lane.
- (4) If a usable path for bicycles has been provided adjacent to a roadway, a bicycle rider may be directed by a traffic-control device to use the path and not the roadway.

41-6a-1106. Bicycles and human powered vehicle or device to yield right-of-way to pedestrians on sidewalks, paths, or trails -- Uses prohibited -- Negligent collision prohibited -- Speed restrictions -- Rights and duties same as pedestrians.

- (1) A person operating a bicycle or a vehicle or device propelled by human power shall:
 - (a) yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian; and
 - (b) give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian.

(2) A person may not operate a bicycle or a vehicle or device propelled by human power on a sidewalk, path, or trail, or across a roadway in a crosswalk, where prohibited by a traffic-control device or ordinance.

(3) A person may not operate a bicycle or a vehicle or device propelled by human power in a negligent manner so as to collide with a:

(a) pedestrian; or

(b) person operating a:

(i) bicycle; or

(ii) vehicle or device propelled by human power.

(4) A person operating a bicycle or a vehicle or device propelled by human power on a sidewalk, path, or trail, or across a driveway, or across a roadway on a crosswalk may not operate at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the existing conditions, giving regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing.

(5) Except as provided under Subsections (1) and (4), a person operating a bicycle or a vehicle or device propelled by human power on a sidewalk, path, or trail, or across a roadway on a crosswalk, has all the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances.

41-6a-1107. Bicycles -- Parking on sidewalk, roadway -- Prohibitions.

(1) A person may park a bicycle on a sidewalk unless prohibited or restricted by a traffic-control device.

(2) A bicycle parked on a sidewalk may not impede the normal and reasonable movement of pedestrian or other traffic.

(3) A bicycle may be parked on the roadway at any location where parking is allowed:

(a) at any angle to the curb or edge of the roadway; and

(b) abreast of another bicycle or bicycles near the side of the roadway.

(4) A bicycle may not be parked on a roadway in a manner as to obstruct the movement of a legally parked motor vehicle.

(5) In all other respects, bicycles parked anywhere on a highway shall conform with the provisions of Part 14, Stopping, Standing, and Parking, regarding the parking of vehicles.

41-6a-1108. Bicycles and mopeds -- Turns -- Designated lanes.

(1) A person riding a bicycle or moped and intending to turn left shall comply with Section 41-6a-801 or Subsection (2).

(2) (a) A person riding a bicycle or moped intending to turn left shall approach the turn as close as practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway.

(b) After proceeding across the intersecting roadway, to the far corner of the curb or intersection of the roadway edges, the bicyclist or moped operator shall stop, as far out of the way of traffic as practical.

(c) After stopping, the bicyclist or moped operator shall yield to any traffic proceeding in either direction along the roadway he had been using.

(d) After yielding and complying with any traffic-control device or peace officer regulating traffic, the bicyclist or moped operator may proceed in the new direction.

(3) (a) Notwithstanding Subsections (1) and (2), a highway authority in its respective jurisdiction may place traffic-control devices that require and direct turning bicyclists and moped operators to travel a specific course.

(b) When the devices are placed under Subsection (3)(a), a person may not turn a bicycle other than as directed by the devices.

41-6a-1109. Bicycles and mopeds -- Turn signals -- Exceptions.

(1) Except as provided in this section, a person riding a bicycle or moped shall comply with Section 41-6a-804 regarding turn signals and turning.

(2) A person is not required to signal by hand and arm continuously if the hand is needed in the control or operation of the bicycle or moped.

(3) A person operating a bicycle or moped who is stopped in a lane designated for turning traffic only is not required to signal prior to making the turning movement.

41-6a-1110. Bicycle and moped inspections -- At request of officer.

A peace officer may at any time require a person riding a bicycle or moped to stop and submit the bicycle or moped to an inspection and a test as appropriate if the officer has reasonable cause to believe that:

(1) the bicycle or moped is unsafe or not equipped as required by law; or

(2) the bicycle or moped's equipment is not in proper adjustment or repair.

41-6a-1111. Bicycle racing -- When approved -- Prohibitions -- Exceptions -- Authorized exemptions from traffic laws.

(1) Bicycle racing on highways is prohibited under Section 41-6a-606, except as authorized in this section.

(2) (a) Bicycle racing on a highway is permitted when a racing event is approved by a highway authority on a highway under its jurisdiction.

(b) Approval of bicycle highway racing events may be granted only under conditions:

(i) which assure reasonable safety for all race participants, spectators, and other highway users; and

(ii) which prevent unreasonable interference with traffic flow which would seriously inconvenience other highway users.

(3) Participants in an approved bicycle highway racing event may be exempted from compliance with any traffic laws otherwise applicable:

(a) by agreement with the approving highway authority; and

(b) if traffic control is adequate to assure the safety of all highway users.

41-6a-1112. Bicycles and mopeds -- Carrying bundle -- One hand on handlebars.

(1) A person operating a bicycle or moped may not carry any package, bundle, or article which prevents the use of both hands in the control and operation of the bicycle or moped.

(2) A person operating a bicycle or moped shall keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times.

41-6a-1113. Bicycle -- Prohibited equipment -- Brakes required.

- (1) A bicycle may not be equipped with, and a person may not use on a bicycle, a siren or whistle.
- (2) Every bicycle shall be equipped with a brake or brakes which enable its driver to stop the bicycle within 25 feet from a speed of ten miles per hour on dry, level, clean pavement.

41-6a-1114. Bicycles -- Lamps and reflective material required.

- (1) Every bicycle in use at the times described in Section 41-6a-1603 shall be equipped with a:
- (a) lamp of a type approved by the department which is on the front emitting a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front; and
 - (b) (i) red reflector of a type approved by the department which is visible for 500 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle; or
 - (ii) red taillight designed for use on a bicycle and emitting flashing or nonflashing light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear.
- (2) Every bicycle when in use at the times described in Section 41-6a-1603 shall be equipped with:
- (a) reflective material of sufficient size and reflectivity to be visible from both sides for 500 feet when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle; or
 - (b) in lieu of reflective material, a lighted lamp visible from both sides from a distance of at least 500 feet.
- (3) A bicycle or its rider may be equipped with lights or reflectors in addition to those required by Subsections (1) and (2).

41-6a-1603. Lights and illuminating devices -- Duty to display -- Time.

- (1) (a) The operator of a vehicle shall turn on the lamps or lights of the vehicle on a highway at any time from a half hour after sunset to a half hour before sunrise and at any other time when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons and vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 1,000 feet ahead.
- (b) The lights, lighted lamps, and other lamps and illuminating devices under Subsection (1)(a) shall be lighted as respectively required for different classes of vehicles, subject to the exceptions for parked vehicles under Section 41-6a-1607.
- (2) Whenever a requirement is made as to distance from which certain lamps and devices shall render objects visible or within which the lamps or devices shall be visible, the provisions apply during the times specified under Subsection (1)(a) for a vehicle without load on a straight, level, unlighted highway under normal atmospheric conditions, unless a different time or condition is expressly stated.

(3) Whenever a requirement is made as to the mounted height of lamps or devices it shall mean from the center of the lamp or device to the level ground upon which the vehicle stands when the vehicle is without a load.

41-6a-1702. Sidewalk -- Driving prohibited -- Exception.

(1) Except for a bicycle or device propelled by human power, a person may not operate a vehicle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area.

(2) The provisions of Subsection (1) do not apply on a driveway.

41-6a-1704. Vehicle door -- Prohibited opening.

(1) A person may not open the door of a motor vehicle on a side available to moving traffic unless it can be done safely and without interfering with the movement of other traffic.

(2) A person may not leave a door open on a side of a vehicle available to moving traffic for a period of time longer than necessary to load or unload passengers.