

## **Louisiana State Bicycling Laws**

The following Louisiana State Bicycling laws were researched and verified in August 2003. This list was generated by searching for the term "bicycle" using the Louisiana full-text state law search engine available on the Louisiana state legislature website: [www.legis.state.la.us](http://www.legis.state.la.us). From this search, we included the full text of all laws that applied directly to cyclists. This list is intended to be a guide for cyclists, not an official legal document.

### **§193. Operation of bicycles; general provision**

The regulations applicable to bicycles shall apply whenever a bicycle is operated upon any highway or upon any path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles, subject to those exceptions stated hereafter. Acts 1962, No. 310,§ 1.

### **§194. Traffic laws apply to persons riding bicycles**

Every person riding a bicycle upon a highway of this state shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this Chapter, except as to special regulations in this Part and except as to those provisions of this Chapter which by their very nature can have no application. Acts 1962, No. 310,§ 1.

### **§195. Riding on bicycles**

A. A person propelling a bicycle shall not ride other than upon or astride a permanent or regular seat attached thereto.

B. No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

C. A person operating a bicycle shall at all times keep at least one hand upon the handle bars thereof. Acts 1962 No. 310,§ 1.

### **§196. Clinging to vehicles**

No person riding upon any bicycle shall attach himself or the bicycle to any vehicle upon a highway. Acts 1962, No. 310,§ 1.

### **§197. Riding on roadways and bicycle paths**

A. Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

B. Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.

C. Whenever a usable path for bicycles has been provided adjacent to a roadway, bicycle riders shall use such path and shall not use the roadway. Acts 1962, No. 310,§ 1.

### **§329. Bicycles; front lamps; side and rear reflectors**

A. Every bicycle when in use at nighttime shall be equipped with a lamp on the front which shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet to the front and with a red reflector on the rear and a reflector on each side facing outward at a right angle to the bicycle frame, all of a type approved by the department which shall be visible from all distances within six hundred feet to one hundred feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of headlamps on a motor vehicle.

A lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear may be used in addition to the red reflector.

B. After December 31, 1974, no person shall sell or offer for sale any bicycle unless such bicycle is equipped with at least one red reflector on the rear and one reflector on each side as required by this section. This section shall not apply to bicycles while engaged in sanctioned competition races. Acts 1962, No. 310,§ 1. Amended by Acts 1974, No. 35,§ 1.

**§346. Brakes on bicycles**

Every bicycle shall be equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement. Acts 1962, No. 310,§ 1.

**§4790. Bicycle regulation in municipalities of over 400,000**

The governing authorities of all municipalities in this State with a population in excess of 400,000 are hereby authorized and empowered to adopt ordinances regulating the business of purchasing, selling, transferring, exchanging, repairing, or storing of new and/or used bicycles, parts and accessories for bicycles, at wholesale or retail, and to provide for the registration of description and ownership of bicycles. Acts 1964, No. 363,§ 1.

**§263. Special restrictions on use of Louisiana Interstate Highways (excerpt pertaining to bicycles)**

C. The use of any Louisiana interstate highway by pedestrians, bicycles, or other non-motorized vehicles is prohibited. Acts 1962, No. 310,§ 1. Amended by Acts 1964, No. 87, § 1.