



Indiana Bicycle Regulations

The following are the state laws pertaining to riding a bicycle in Indiana. Be aware that cities/municipalities throughout the state could have specific laws that differ from the state laws.

IC 9-21-11-1 Parents and guardians; authorizing or permitting violation of chapter; bicycles and electric foot scooters; application of chapter

Sec. 1. (a) The parent of a child and the guardian of a protected person may not authorize or knowingly permit the child or protected person to violate this chapter.

(b) Subject to the exceptions stated, the provisions of this chapter applicable to bicycles or electric foot scooters apply whenever a bicycle or an electric foot scooter is operated upon a highway or a path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles and electric foot scooters.

[Pre-1991 Recodification Citation: 9-4-1-93.]

As added by P.L.2-1991, SEC.9. Amended by P.L.142-2019, SEC.7.

IC 9-21-11-2 Roadways; rights and duties

Sec. 2. A person riding a bicycle or operating a Class B motor driven cycle upon a roadway has all the rights and duties under this article that are applicable to a person who drives a vehicle, except the following:

(1) Special regulations of this article.

(2) Those provisions of this article that by their nature have no application.

[Pre-1991 Recodification Citation: 9-4-1-94.]

As added by P.L.2-1991, SEC.9. Amended by P.L.221-2014, SEC.55.

IC 9-21-11-3 Operation; seats; passengers

Sec. 3. (a) A person propelling a bicycle may not:

(1) ride other than upon the permanent and regular seat attached to the bicycle; or

(2) carry any other person upon the bicycle who is not seated upon a firmly attached and regular seat on the bicycle.

(b) A person may not ride upon a bicycle unless seated under this section.

[Pre-1991 Recodification Citation: 9-4-1-95(a).]

As added by P.L.2-1991, SEC.9.

IC 9-21-11-4 Number of passengers

Sec. 4. A bicycle may not be used to carry more persons at one (1) time than the number for which the bicycle is designed and equipped.

[Pre-1991 Recodification Citation: 9-4-1-95(b).]

As added by P.L.2-1991, SEC.9.

IC 9-21-11-6 Lane use restrictions; riding two abreast

Sec. 6. A person riding a bicycle upon a roadway may not ride more than two (2) abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.

[Pre-1991 Recodification Citation: 9-4-1-97.]

As added by P.L.2-1991, SEC.9.

IC 9-21-11-7 Packages, bundles, or other articles preventing proper use of handlebars

Sec. 7. A person who rides a bicycle may not carry a package, a bundle, or an article that prevents the person from keeping both hands upon the handlebars.

[Pre-1991 Recodification Citation: 9-4-1-98.]

As added by P.L.2-1991, SEC.9.

IC 9-21-11-8 Use of siren or whistle prohibited

Sec. 8. A bicycle may not be equipped with and a person may not use upon a bicycle a siren or whistle.

[Pre-1991 Recodification Citation: 9-4-1-99.]

As added by P.L.2-1991, SEC.9. Amended by P.L.198-2016, SEC.365.

IC 9-21-11-9 Lamps and reflectors

Sec. 9. A bicycle operated on a highway from one-half (1/2) hour after sunset until one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise must be equipped with the following:

- (1) A lamp on the front exhibiting a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred (500) feet to the front.
- (2) A lamp on the rear exhibiting a red light visible from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the rear or a red reflector visible from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the rear.

[Pre-1991 Recodification Citation: 9-4-1-100(a).]

As added by P.L.2-1991, SEC.9.

IC 9-21-11-10 Brakes

Sec. 10. A bicycle must be equipped with a brake that will enable the person who operates the bicycle to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

[Pre-1991 Recodification Citation: 9-4-1-100(b).]

As added by P.L.2-1991, SEC.9.

IC 9-21-11-11 Highways; regulations and requirements

Sec. 11. A person who operates a bicycle upon a highway shall observe the regulations and requirements of this article.

[Pre-1991 Recodification Citation: 9-4-1-101.]

As added by P.L.2-1991, SEC.9.

IC 9-21-11-13.1 Electric bicycles; rights and duties; exemption from certain statutes; required equipment and features; restrictions on use

Sec. 13.1. (a) An electric bicycle is not a motor vehicle (as defined in [IC 9-13-2-105](#)).

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an operator of an electric bicycle is:

- (1) subject to all of the duties; and
- (2) entitled to all of the rights and privileges;

of a bicycle operator.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an electric bicycle shall be regulated as a bicycle.

(d) The operator of an electric bicycle is not subject to:

- (1) [IC 9-24](#) (driver's licenses); or
- (2) [IC 9-25](#) (financial responsibility).

(e) An electric bicycle is not subject to:

- (1) [IC 9-17](#) (certificates of title);
- (2) [IC 9-18.1](#) (motor vehicle registration); or
- (3) [IC 14-16-1](#) (off-road vehicles).

(f) On and after January 1, 2020, a manufacturer or distributor of an electric bicycle shall affix a permanent and conspicuous label to each electric bicycle. Each label described under this subsection shall prominently display the following information:

- (1) The class level of the electric bicycle.
- (2) The top assisted speed of the electric bicycle.
- (3) The rated wattage of the electric bicycle's electric motor.

(g) If a modification to an electric bicycle results in any alteration to the:

- (1) top assisted speed of the electric bicycle; or
- (2) engagement of the electric bicycle's electric motor;

the label described in subsection (f) shall be replaced with a subsequent label that accurately reflects the class level, top assisted speed, and rated wattage of the modified electric bicycle.

(h) All electric bicycles shall comply with the bicycle equipment and manufacturing requirements adopted by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (16 CFR 1512).

(i) All electric bicycles shall be equipped with an electric motor that disengages or ceases to provide assistance when the operator:

- (1) stops pedaling; or
- (2) applies brakes.

(j) Subject to subsection (k), and except as provided in subsection (l), an electric bicycle may be operated wherever bicycles are permitted to travel.

(k) The lawful operation of an electric bicycle is subject to the following provisions:

(1) Unless otherwise specified by a statute, rule, or local ordinance, a Class 1 or Class 2 electric bicycle may be operated on any bicycle path or multipurpose path where bicycles are permitted.

(2) A Class 3 electric bicycle may not be operated on a bicycle path or multipurpose path unless one (1) or more of the following conditions apply:

(A) The bicycle path or multipurpose path is within or adjacent to a highway or roadway.

(B) A local authority or state agency with jurisdiction over the bicycle path or multipurpose path authorizes the use of a Class 3 bicycle on the bicycle path or multipurpose path.

(3) A person less than fifteen (15) years of age may not operate a Class 3 electric bicycle.

(4) A person less than fifteen (15) years of age may ride as a passenger on a Class 3 electric bicycle if the Class 3 electric bicycle is designed to accommodate a passenger.

(5) A properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet that meets the most recent and applicable standards issued by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission or the American Society for Testing and Materials must be worn by any person who operates or rides as a passenger on a Class 3 electric bicycle and is less than eighteen (18) years of age.

(l) Subsection (k) shall not apply to a path or trail designated as nonmotorized if the following conditions are met:

- (1) The bicycle path or trail has a natural surface tread.
- (2) The bicycle path or trail was made by clearing and grading the native soil.
- (3) No surfacing materials have been added to the bicycle path or trail.

A local authority or state agency may regulate the use of electric bicycles or any class of electric bicycle on a bicycle path or trail described under this subsection.

As added by P.L.206-2019, SEC. 11.

IC 9-21-11-14 Violations; Class C infraction

Sec. 14. A person who violates this chapter commits a Class C infraction.

[Pre-1991 Recodification Citation: 9-4-1-127.1(b).]

As added by P.L.2-1991, SEC.9.

IC 9-21-1-3 Powers of local authorities; effective date of ordinances

Sec. 3. (a) A local authority, with respect to private roads and highways under the authority's jurisdiction, in accordance with sections 2 and 3.3(a) of this chapter, and within the reasonable exercise of the police power, may do the following:

(9) Regulate the operation of bicycles and electric foot scooters and require the registration and licensing of bicycles and electric foot scooters, including the requirement of a registration fee.

(b) An ordinance or regulation adopted under subsection (a)(4), (a)(5), (a)(6), (a)(7), (a)(8), (a)(10), (a)(11), (a)(12), (a)(13), or (a)(14), is effective when signs giving notice of the local traffic regulations are posted upon or at the entrances to the highway or part of the highway that is affected.

[Pre-1991 Recodification Citation: 9-4-1-28(a); (c).]

As added by P.L.2-1991, SEC.9. Amended by P.L.128-2002, SEC.2; P.L.21-2003, SEC.6; P.L.150-2009, SEC.11; P.L.182-2009(ss), SEC.291; P.L.259-2013, SEC.15; P.L.142-2019, SEC.4.

IC 9-21-3-7 Signals exhibiting colored lights or arrows; requirements; explanation of colors

(3)(D) This clause does not apply to the operation of an auticycle. If the operator of a motorcycle, motor driven cycle, or bicycle approaches an intersection that is controlled by a traffic control signal, the operator may proceed through the intersection on a steady red signal only if the operator:

- (i) comes to a complete stop at the intersection for at least one hundred twenty (120) seconds; and
- (ii) exercises due caution as provided by law, otherwise treats the traffic control signal as a stop sign, and determines that it is safe to proceed.

IC 9-21-8-37 Pedestrians and children; due care; caution

Sec. 37. Notwithstanding other provisions of this article or a local ordinance, a person who drives a vehicle shall do the following:

- (1) Exercise due care to avoid colliding with a pedestrian or a person propelling a human powered vehicle, giving an audible signal when necessary.
- (2) Exercise proper caution upon observing a child or an obviously confused, incapacitated, or intoxicated person.

[Pre-1991 Recodification Citation: 9-4-1-89.]

As added by P.L.2-1991, SEC.9.