

# State of Texas Bicycle Laws

## § 551.101. RIGHTS AND DUTIES

A person operating a bicycle has the rights and duties applicable to a driver operating a vehicle under this subtitle, unless:

- (1) a provision of this chapter alters a right or duty; or
- (2) a right or duty applicable to a driver operating a vehicle cannot by its nature apply to a person operating a bicycle.

## § 551.103. OPERATION ON ROADWAY

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a person operating a bicycle on a roadway who is moving slower than the other traffic on the roadway shall ride as near as practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway unless:

- (1) the person is passing another vehicle moving in the same direction;
- (2) the person is preparing to turn left at an intersection or onto a private road or driveway;
- (3) a condition on or of the roadway, including a fixed or moving object, parked or moving vehicle, pedestrian, animal, or surface hazard prevents the person from safely riding next to the right curb or edge of the roadway; or

**(4) the person is operating a bicycle in an outside lane that is:**

**(A) less than 14 feet in width and does not have a designated bicycle lane adjacent to that lane; or**

**(B) too narrow for a bicycle and a motor vehicle to safely travel side by side**

(b) A person operating a bicycle on a one-way roadway with two or more marked traffic lanes may ride as near as practicable to the left curb or edge of the roadway.

(c) Persons operating bicycles on a roadway may ride two abreast. Persons riding two abreast on a laned roadway shall ride in a single lane. Persons riding two abreast may not impede the normal and reasonable flow of traffic on the roadway. Persons may not ride more than two abreast unless they are riding on a part of the roadway set aside for the exclusive operation of bicycles.

### Left Turn

Raise left arm to a horizontal position.



Using  
Hand  
Signals



### Right Turn

Raise right arm to a horizontal position.

**BikeSafe. BikeSmart.**



**BIKEHOUSTON**  
[www.bikehouston.org](http://www.bikehouston.org)

## Basic Traffic Laws for Bicyclists & Motorists

- Ride as far to the right as practicable, in the same direction as other traffic. "Practicable" does not mean "possible." Stay out of the gutter and leave yourself enough room to avoid hazards, including parked cars with open doors.
- A cyclist may ride in the middle of a lane (take the lane) that is less than 14 feet wide or is too narrow to safely share with a motor vehicle. Cyclists may ride two abreast when taking a lane on a multilane roadway. Persons riding two abreast may not impede the normal and reasonable flow of traffic on the roadway.
- A cyclist should ride in the proper lane to make a turn or otherwise negotiate an intersection. That is usually the rightmost lane that goes to your destination.
- A cyclist may ride to the left side on a one-way roadway.
- A cyclist must stop and yield at stop signs and traffic lights just as motor vehicles do.
- A cyclist must have and use a white light on the front of the bike and a red reflector or red light on the back when riding in the dark.
- Vehicles, including bicycles, are prohibited from racing on public roads. There are specific allowances for sanctioned bike races that are approved by local law enforcement.

## City of Houston Laws

### Chapter 45, Traffic, Art. XII, SEC. 45-44. VULNERABLE ROAD USERS

(1) While passing, a separation between a motor vehicle and a vulnerable road user that, when all road, traffic and weather conditions are considered, provides the motorist sufficient space and time to avoid a collision with a vulnerable road user but, in any event, **not less than 3 feet if the operator's vehicle is a passenger car or light truck and not less than 6 feet if the operator's vehicle is a truck** (other than a light truck) or a commercial vehicle as defined by Texas Transportation Code Section 522.003; or

(2) While trailing, a separation between a motor vehicle and a vulnerable road user that, when all road, traffic and weather conditions are considered, provides the motorist sufficient space and time to avoid a collision with a vulnerable road user.

### Houston Traffic Code Sec. 45-302. RIDING ON SIDEWALKS

No person shall ride a bicycle upon a sidewalk in the City of Houston within a business district or where prohibited by a sign. A business district is defined as "the territory contiguous to and including a roadway when, within 600 feet along such roadway, there are buildings in use for business or industrial purpose which occupy 300 feet collectively on both sides of the roadway."



**BikeHouston is a charitable bicycle advocacy nonprofit organization working to make the Houston area bike-friendly. Join as a member at [bikehouston.org/membership](http://bikehouston.org/membership).**