

News Traffic Safety Laws Effective January 1, 2018

HB 0374 (Public Act 100-0246) Military Specialty License Plates

Any vehicle owner with a specialty license plate who is also a veteran who qualifies and wishes to obtain a military specialty license plate may do without paying any transfer fees.

HB 0733 (Public Act 100-0346) Decals on Vehicle Windows

No new or used motor vehicle dealer shall permit a driver to drive a motor vehicle off the premises with signs, decals, paperwork, or other material on the front windshield or on the windows immediately adjacent to each side of the driver that would obstruct his/her view. This law stems from the tragic death of Brendan Burke who was killed in a car crash by a driver test driving a vehicle that had decals and paperwork obstructing the driver's vision.

HB 1677 (Public Act 100-0357) Human Trafficking Information in Rules of the Road

The Illinois Rules of the Road for Commercial Motor Vehicles and the curriculum for commercial driver training schools providing instruction for commercial motor vehicle drivers shall contain information regarding human trafficking.

HB 1784 (Public Act 100-0359) Passing a Bicycle on the Left & Bicycle Equipment

A vehicle driver may overtake and pass to the left of a bicycle on a portion of a highway designated as a no-passing zone when: (1) the bicycle is traveling at a speed of less than half of the posted speed limit; (2) the driver is able to overtake and pass the bicycle without exceeding the posted speed limit; and (3) there is sufficient distance to the left of the centerline. Also provide that the rear of a bicycle may be equipped with a lamp emitting a steady or flashing red light (rather than only a red light) visible from a distance of 500 feet in addition to a red reflector.

HB 1805 (Public Act 11-0041) Expanding the Organ Donor Registry

16- and 17-year-olds may register for the state's First Person Consent Organ/Tissue Donor Registry when they receive their driver's license or identification card.

The law amends the Illinois Anatomical Gift Act allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to join the First Person Consent Organ/Tissue Donor Registry. Under current law, an individual must be at least 18 years old to join the registry. Those who join the registry will receive a letter from the Secretary of State's office thanking them for joining. 16- and 17-year-olds are encouraged to use this letter as a basis for discussing their decision with their parents.

HB 3084 (Public Act 100-0149) Aggravated DUI with a Suspended/Revoked License

Enhanced penalties apply upon conviction for driving while revoked if the driver is revoked for aggravated DUI that resulted in death. The prosecution may be commenced at any time.

HB 3172 (Public Act 100-0160) Truck Tractor Inspections

A truck tractor in combination with a semitrailer shall be subject to a safety test at an official testing station at least every 12 months (rather than 6 months).

SB 0396 (Public Act 100-0209) Low Speed Electric Bicycles

Defines low-speed electric bicycles into three classifications. Class 1 is a electric bicycle with a motor that assists the rider while pedaling but can travel no more than 20 mph. Class 2 is an electric bicycle with a motor used exclusively to propel the rider but cannot exceed 20 mph. Class 3 is an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance when being pedaled until the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 mph. Electric bicycles must have a manufacturer's label indicating the classification. An electric bicycle cannot be modified to change the speed capability without replacing the required label. A low-speed electric bicycle may be operated on any bicycle path unless local authorities prohibit it. Class 3 electric bicycles may only be operated by a person 16 years of age or older. Local authorities may regulate the usage of electric and gas-power driven bicycles in their jurisdiction.

SB 2028 (Public Act 100-0241) School Bus Usage

A school bus operated by a public or private school transporting students enrolled in grade 12 or below for a school related athletic event or other school approved extracurricular activity or passengers other than students for non related school activities shall be registered as a school bus and shall comply with bus owner and bus driver permit requirements, minimum liability insurance requirements, and any special requirements pertaining to school buses.

New Specialty License Plates and License Plate Decals

HB 2437 (Public Act 100-0057) Specialty Plate Decal for Volunteerism

A specialty license plate decal for display on a motor vehicle with a universal specialty license plate may be issued promoting volunteerism.

HB 2485 (Public Act 100-0060) Special Plate Decal for Prostate Cancer Awareness

A specialty license plate decal for display on a motor vehicle with a universal specialty license plate may be issued promoting prostate cancer awareness.

HB 2595 (Public Act 100-0073) Coast Guard Military License Plates

Special military license plates may be issued to qualifying vehicle owners recognizing their military service in the United States Coast Guard.

SB 0052 (Public Act 100-0078) Specialty Plate Decal for Horsemen's Council of Illinois

A specialty license plate decal for display on a motor vehicle with a universal specialty license plate may be issued promoting the Horsemen's Council of Illinois.