

The following is a summary of the state statutes that govern safety with respect to bicycle and pedestrian activities within Connecticut.

**Section 14 - 286. Use of bicycles and bicycles with helper motors. Regulations concerning bicycles on bridges. Use of high-mileage vehicles.**

A bicyclist shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before passing a pedestrian or another bicycle operator. No person shall operate a bicycle upon a sidewalk if such operation is prohibited by any ordinance of any town or by any regulation of the state traffic commission. No person shall ride a bicycle with a helper motor unless that person holds a valid license. No person shall operate a bicycle with a helper motor at a rate of speed exceeding thirty miles per hour; nor operate it on any sidewalk, limited access highway or turnpike. The state traffic commission shall adopt regulations under which bicycle traffic may be permitted on those bridges in the state on limited access highways, which it designates to be safe for bicycle traffic.

No person may operate a high-mileage vehicle on any sidewalk, limited access highway or turnpike.

**Section 14 - 286a. Rights, duties and regulation of cyclists.**

Every person riding a bicycle upon the traveled portion of a highway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to motor vehicles. No parent of any child shall knowingly permit any such child or ward to violate any provision of the general statutes relating to bicycles.

Every person riding a bicycle along any sidewalk or across any roadway shall be granted all of the rights applicable to pedestrians walking in such areas.

**Section 14 - 286 b. Operation of bicycles; attaching to moving vehicle prohibited; carrying of passengers, packages, bundles and other articles restricted; at least one hand to be kept on handlebars. Operators of roller skates, sleds, skateboards, coasters and toy vehicles prohibited from attaching to moving vehicle.**

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 except when making a left turn, overtaking and passing another vehicle going in the same direction, pedestrians, parked vehicles animals or obstructions on the right side of the highway and when the right side of the highway is closed to traffic for construction or repair.

The commissioner shall, whenever possible, encourage the inclusion of areas for bicycles and pedestrians when creating the layout of a state highway or relocating a state highway.

Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast. Persons riding two abreast shall not impede the movement of traffic, and, on a laned roadway, shall ride within a single lane.

No person riding upon any bicycle, roller skates, sled, skateboard, coaster or toy vehicle shall attach the same to any vehicle moving on a public roadway nor shall the operator of such vehicle knowingly permit it.

No person operating a bicycle shall carry a passenger, unless if age eighteen years, may carry any child provided such child is securely attached to his person by means of a backpack, sling or similar device.

No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package which prevents such person from using both hands in the operation of such bicycle. Each person operating such bicycle shall keep at least one hand on the handlebars.

**Section 14 - 286c. Left and right turns.**

A bicyclist intending to make a left turn may approach as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the highway, proceed across the intersecting roadway and make such turn as close as practicable to the curb or edge of the highway on the far side of the intersection.

A bicyclist intending to make a right turn may, before turning, extend his right hand and arm horizontally with forefinger extended.

A bicyclist operating a bicycle intending to make a right or left turn shall be required to make such signal continuously.

**Section 14 - 286d. Bicycle helmets. Children. Renting bicycles. Public awareness campaign.**

No child under sixteen years of age shall operate a bicycle on the traveled portion of any highway unless such child is wearing protective headgear.

A law enforcement officer may issue a verbal warning to the parent of such child.

A person engaged in the business of renting bicycles shall provide a bicycle helmet to any person under sixteen years of age who will operate the bicycle if such person does not have a helmet in his possession. A fee may be charged for the helmet rental.

The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may establish, within available appropriations, a public awareness campaign to educate the public concerning the dangers of riding bicycles without helmets and to promote the use of safety helmets while riding bicycles.

**Section 14 - 288. Lights, reflectors and brakes on bicycles. Whistle emitting devices prohibited.**

Each bicycle operated after dusk shall display a lighted lamp upon the forward part of such bicycle. Each bicycle shall also be equipped with a reflector attached to the rear of such bicycle. Such bicycle shall also be equipped with a braking device sufficient to enable the operator to stop within twenty-five feet on dry, level and clean pavement when moving at a speed of ten miles per hour. No person shall equip a bicycle with a device, which emits a whistle while operating a bicycle.

**Section 14 - 298. State Traffic Commission.**

The State Traffic Commission shall adopt regulations, in cooperation and agreement with local traffic authorities, governing the use of state highways, and the operation of vehicles including but not limited to motor vehicles and bicycles.

**Section 14 - 300. Crosswalks. Pedestrian - controlled signals. Regulation of pedestrians and motor vehicles at crosswalks.**

The traffic authority shall have power to designate such crosswalks and intersections as, in its opinion, constitute a special danger to pedestrians crossing the highway including specially marked crosswalks in the vicinity of schools, which crosswalks shall have distinctive markings and may maintain suitable signs located at intervals along highways, particularly where there are no sidewalks, directing pedestrians to walk facing vehicular traffic.

At any intersection where special pedestrian-control signals bearing the words "Walk" or "Don't Walk" are placed, pedestrians may cross the highway only as indicated by the signal. At any intersection, where traffic is controlled by other traffic control signals, pedestrians shall not cross the highway against a red or "stop" signal and shall not cross at any place not marked or unmarked crosswalk. A pedestrian started or starting across the highway on a "Walk" signal or on any such crosswalk on a green or "Go" signal shall have the right of way over all vehicles, including those making turns, until such pedestrian has reached the opposite curb or safety zone.

At any marked crosswalk, each operator of a vehicle shall yield the right of way to any pedestrian crossing the roadway within such crosswalk. No operator of a vehicle approaching from the rear shall overtake and pass any vehicle the operator of which has stopped at any crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway. The operator of any vehicle crossing a sidewalk shall yield the right of way to each pedestrian and all other traffic upon such sidewalk.

**Section 14 - 300a. Pedestrian street markings near housing projects for elderly persons.**

The traffic authority shall provide special pedestrian street or sidewalk markings at intersections and streets in proximity to projects designated for containing a high proportion of elderly persons.

**Section 14 - 300b. Pedestrian use of crosswalks and roadways.**

Each pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a crosswalk shall yield the right of way to each vehicle upon such roadway.

No pedestrian shall cross a roadway intersection diagonally. No pedestrian shall cross a roadway between adjacent intersections at which traffic or pedestrian control are in operation except within a marked crosswalk.

Each pedestrian crossing a roadway within a crosswalk shall travel upon the right half of such crosswalk.

**Section 14 - 300c. Pedestrian use of roads and sidewalks. Required to yield to emergency vehicle.**

No pedestrian shall walk along and upon a roadway where a sidewalk adjacent to such roadway is provided. Where a sidewalk is not provided each pedestrian walking along such roadway shall walk only on the shoulder or as near as practicable to an outside edge of such roadway and shall walk only upon the left side of such roadway.

No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb, sidewalk, crosswalk or any other place of safety adjacent to or upon a roadway and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close to such pedestrian as to constitute an immediate hazard to such pedestrian. No pedestrian who is under the influence of alcohol or any drug shall walk or stand upon any part of a roadway.

Each pedestrian shall yield the right of way to any authorized emergency vehicle.

Except at marked intersections, each pedestrian upon a roadway shall yield the right of way to each vehicle upon such roadway.

Section 14 - 300d. Operator of a vehicle required to exercise due care to avoid pedestrian.

Each operator of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian or person