



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

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FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Senate Freedom 3

Bill #:SF-19

Sponsors: Leah Alaimo, Ashtyn Bishop, Tessa Hartzell, Alanna Jordan

An Act To: Amend § 1234 rules of the road, Riding on roadways, shoulders, bicycle or in-line skating lanes and bicycle or in-line skating paths. To make a mandatory age for which an individual can ride on the sidewalk.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

Purpose: This law will establish uniform and distinct cycling traffic laws across NYS, therefore providing safety for cyclists, pedestrians and drivers, specifically minors.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1:

Section 2:

§ 1234. Riding on roadways, shoulders, bicycle or in-line skate lanes and bicycle or in-line skate paths

1. Upon all roadways, any bicycle or in-line skate shall be driven either on a usable bicycle or in-line skate lane or, if a usable bicycle or in-line skate lane has not been provided, near the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway or upon a usable right-hand shoulder in such a manner as to prevent undue interference with the flow of traffic except when preparing for a left turn or when reasonably necessary to avoid conditions that would make it unsafe to continue along near the right-hand curb or edge. ~~Conditions to be taken into consideration include, but are not limited to, fixed or moving objects, vehicles, bicycles, in-line skates, pedestrians, animals, surface hazards or traffic lanes too narrow for a bicycle or person on in-line skates and a vehicle to travel safely side-by-side within the lane.~~
2. Persons riding bicycles or skating or gliding on in-line skates upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast. Persons riding bicycles or skating or gliding on in-line skates upon a shoulder, bicycle or in-line skate lane, or bicycle or in-line skates path, intended for the use of bicycles or in-line skates may ride two or more abreast if sufficient space is available, except that when passing a vehicle, bicycle or person on in-line skates, or pedestrian, standing or proceeding along such shoulder, lane or path, persons riding bicycles or skating or gliding on in-line skates shall ride, skate, or glide single file. ~~Persons riding bicycles or skating or gliding on in-line skates upon a roadway shall ride, skate, or glide single file when being overtaken by a vehicle.~~



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- 38 3. ~~Any person operating a bicycle or skating or gliding on in-line skates who is entering the~~
39 ~~roadway from a private road, driveway, alley or over a curb shall come to a full stop~~
40 ~~before entering the roadway.~~ If you are 16 and younger, you have the option to ride on
41 the sidewalk or on the street. If you are older than 16, you must be in the street.
42 However, if you are in the street and there is a bike lane, you are required to ride in the
43 bike lane. You will risk getting a fine if you violate this law. In addition, it is to create a
44 new law to take away a municipality's ability to regulate cycling traffic. No municipality
45 can decide where cyclists can ride as NYS will override it

46
47 **Justification:**

48 Currently, in New York State, there is no official law regarding where bikers must ride. Today,
49 however, biking has become a very popular method of transportation. Therefore, biking laws are
50 necessary to ensure the safety of these millions of bike-riding individuals. These laws will limit
51 the hundreds of biking accidents that occur each year, which not only injure the biker but also
52 pedestrians and drivers. Furthermore, requiring bikers to ride in bike lanes will help assist in the
53 smooth flow of pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Most importantly, these laws will protect young
54 bike riders, who may just be learning how to ride. This does not apply to citizens with physical
55 and/or mental impairment; they will be granted the choice between riding on the sidewalk and
56 the street.

57
58 **Fiscal Implications:**

59 There are no fiscal implications.
60

61 **Environmental Implications:**

62 The environmental implication of this law is that since the more rigid guidelines will make
63 citizens feel safer, they will be more inclined to choose cycling over driving. This will ultimately
64 reduce carbon emissions.
65

66 **Effective Date:**

67 This bill will go into effect 1 year after its passage.
68