

H.B. 58 - Traffic Control Signs for Bicycles Stop as Yield

House Bill 58 will revise traffic control regulations related to bicycles and will make bicycle and vehicle traffic safer. This includes treating stop signs as yield signs and red traffic signals as stop signs. This regulation has been in place in Idaho since 1982. In 2017, Delaware became the second state to adopt this regulation.

Increased Safety

- **Studies show this law improves safety and none have found an increase in accidents**
- One study measured a **14% decrease in motor vehicle – bicycle crashes**[1]
- A comparative study of cities with and without this law found a **decrease in crash severity in those cities with this law**[2]
- **"Idaho bicycle-collision statistics confirm that the Idaho law has resulted in no discernible increase in injuries or fatalities to bicyclists"**
Mark McNeese – Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator, Idaho Transportation Department
- **"It's best when traffic laws reflect how people actually behave on the road"**
Jeffrey Whitmarsh – Lieutenant, Delaware State Police Decreased

Decreased Traffic Congestion

- With Utah's population projected to double by 2050, **all efforts should be made to encourage more people to use bicycling, walking, and public transit**Improved

Improved Air Quality

- **50% of Utah's poor air quality is attributed to motor vehicle emissions**
- **Making bicycling safer, faster, and easier will help to encourage more ridership**

Frees up resources

- **Law enforcement will be able to focus on more serious infractions**, such as teenage driver crashes (+44.9%), unrestrained occupant crashes (+9.1), and speed related crashes (+5.6%)[3]
- Courts will no longer have these minor infractions taking up time within the judicial system

But what about "Same Roads, Same Rules"

- The most common objection is this change gives people on bicycle special rights
- **There are already numerous other different duties and prohibitions for people on bicycle:** Title 41, Chapter 6a, Part 11–Bicycle and Other Vehicles, Regulation of Operation

Sources :

[1]Meggs, Jason N. (2010) "Bicycle Safety and Choice: Compounded Public Cobenefits of the Idaho Law Relaxing Stop Requirements for Cycling."

[2]Whyte, Brandon (2013) "The Idaho Stop Law and the Severity of Bicycle Crashes: A Comparative Study."

[3]State of Utah Department of Public Safety Highway Safety Office - Utah Fatal Crash Summary 2016



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