

Illinois Traffic-Related Key Events

JAN

1933

Legal age for alcohol consumption established at age 21 for males and 18 for females.

JAN

1946

Illinois safety responsibility law enacted.

JAN

1958

BAC of 0.15 established as the level at which a driver is presumed to be under the influence of alcohol.

JAN

1963

Legal minimum drinking age established at 21 years of age.

JAN

1967

Driving while intoxicated (DWI) law changed to include driving under the influence of drugs.

JAN

1967

Presumption of being illegally under the influence of alcohol lowered to 0.10.

JAN

1968

Mandatory motorcycle helmet usage law enacted for all riders.

MAY

1969

Motorcycle helmet usage law repealed.

OCT

1972

Implied consent law implemented.

JAN

1973

Legal minimum drinking age changed to allow 19-year-olds and 20-year-olds the right to purchase and consume beer and wine.

FEB

1974

Maximum speed limit reduced to 55 mph.

OCT

1977

Crash reporting threshold increased to damage in excess of \$250 (previously \$100).

JAN

1980

Legal minimum drinking age re-established at 21 years of age for all consumption, purchase, and possession of alcoholic beverages.

JAN

1982

New driving under the influence (DUI)/implied consent law established illegal at 0.10 and toughened penalties.

JUL

1983

Child Passenger Protection Act became effective and required children under the age of 4 to be secured in a child safety seat and 4 and 5-year-olds to be secured in a safety seat or safety belt.

JUL

1985

Safety belt law enacted to require safety belt use by drivers and front seat passengers. Violation of the law is a primary offense.

JAN

1986

Color-coded driver's license established to distinguish between drivers under 21 years of age and drivers 21 and older.

JAN

1986

Statutory summary suspension established to strengthen DUI laws.

MAY

1987

Speed limit on rural interstates raised to 65 mph for first division vehicles and second division vehicles carrying less than 8,000 lbs.

JAN

1988

Safety belt law amended to make non-use of safety belts by drivers and front seat passengers a secondary offense.

JAN

1990

Mandatory insurance law enacted to require minimum liability limits.

JAN

1992

Crash reporting threshold increased to damage in excess of \$500 (previously \$250).

APR

1992

Commercial driver's license required if operating a Class A or Class B vehicle.

JAN

1995

Zero Tolerance law enacted for drivers under the age of 21.

JAN

1995

Minimum fine for speeding in construction, maintenance zones or school zones doubled (to \$150).

AUG

1995

Penalties increased for drivers who do not stop when a school bus has stopped to load or unload passengers.

NOV

1995

Changes in federal legislation allowed Illinois to raise speed limits on certain interstate and freeway-type roads.

JAN

1997

Results of blood or urine tests of drivers receiving medical treatment in hospital emergency rooms resulting from a crash are reportable to police for the purpose of determining alcohol and/or drug content.

JUL**1997**

Lowered the illegal BAC limit to 0.08 (previously 0.10).

JAN**1998**

School bus drivers caught driving a school bus with any trace of alcohol in their systems lose the school bus driver permit.

JAN**1998**

Graduated Driver's License established for drivers less than 21 years of age.

JAN**1999**

Use of ignition interlock devices established as a regular option for the sanction of certain repeat DUI offenders.

AUG**2001**

Penalties increased for repeat DUI offenders. Installation of ignition interlock devices became mandatory in all vehicles owned by a person committing a second or subsequent DUI offense.

AUG**2001**

Additional penalties imposed for persons convicted of DUI with a BAC of 0.16 or higher or with a BAC of 0.08 or higher and a child under age 16 in the vehicle.

JAN**2002**

Child Passenger Protection Act amended to require that children ages 4-15 be restrained in a safety seat or by a safety belt. Fines doubled for failure to secure a child in a safety seat.

JAN**2002**

"Scott's Law" enacted, requiring drivers approaching a stationary authorized emergency vehicle displaying flashing warning lights to yield the right-of-way by making a lane change or otherwise reduce speed.

JAN**2002**

Minimum fine doubled (to \$300) for second and subsequent speed limit violations in construction or maintenance zones or school zones.

JAN**2003**

"Scott's Law" extended to require drivers entering a construction or maintenance zone where workers are present to make a lane or reduce speed and proceed with caution.

JAN**2003**

Persons driving a bus for any school-related activity must have a valid school bus permit.

JUL**2003**

Statewide Traffic Stop Statistical Study established to collect data to identify racial bias.

JUL**2003**

Safety belt law amended to provide for mandatory (primary) enforcement.

JUL**2003**

Law amended to allow for seizure and forfeiture of the vehicle of a person who drives without a license and insurance and causes death or injury to another person.

JAN**2004**

Persons under age 18 with a Graduated Driver's License may not drive until the person reaches age 18 with more than one person under age 20 in the vehicle (siblings and children excluded).

JUN**2004**

Criminal Code amended if a defendant commits reckless homicide in a construction/maintenance zone and kills a worker, the defendant is guilty of a Class 2 felony, punishable by imprisonment for 3-14 years.

AUG**2004**

Automated Traffic Control Systems in Highway Construction/Maintenance Zones Act became effective, speed limit enforcement in construction/maintenance zones through the use of photographs or other recorded images.

AUG**2004**

Fines and other penalties for speeding in a construction/maintenance zone increased. Second or subsequent conviction within two years of the previous violation, driver's license is suspended for 90 days.

JAN**2005**

Penalties increased for persons who leave the scene of personal injury crash. A person leaving the scene must report the crash at a police station or sheriff's office within ½ hour of the crash (previously one hour).

JAN**2005**

Offense of bribery to obtain driving privileges created, with penalties.

JAN**2005**

Vehicle registration application or renewal must include the liability insurance policy number, expiration date, and name of insurer.

JAN**2005**

Reckless driving and aggravated reckless driving offenses expanded to include causing a vehicle to become airborne by using an incline in a roadway.

JUL**2005**

Persons under age 18 who have an instruction permit or Graduated Driver's License may not use a wireless phone while driving except for emergency purposes.

MAY**2006**

Madison County, St. Clair County, Cook County, the collar counties, municipalities within included, may establish by ordinance a photo enforcement system for red light running at intersections.

JUN**2006**

Graduated Driver's License provisions amended to require 50 (previously 25) hours of behind-the-wheel instruction, with at least 10 of the hours at night.

JAN**2007**

Automated Traffic Control Systems in Highway Construction or Maintenance Zones Act amended to require proof that workers were present when a citation is issued.

JAN**2007**

Automated enforcement cameras allowed at rail grade crossings to capture photos of vehicles and drivers that drive around lowered gates or stop on railroad tracks.

JUL**2007**

Persons convicted of driving an uninsured vehicle, in addition to any other penalty imposed shall have the driving privileges suspended for 3 months and until a \$100 reinstatement fee is paid.

JUL**2007**

Driver's license cancellation for persons age 18 or younger who fail to attend school or are habitually truant.

AUG**2007**

Illinois Liquor Control Act amended to disallow parents/guardians to knowingly permit the consumption of alcohol by underage invitees at their residence.

JAN**2008**

Persons under age 21 who receive court supervision for transfer, possession, or consumption of alcohol are subject to a 3-month driver's license suspension.

JAN**2008**

Graduated Driver's License provisions strengthened. Person must have learner's permit for at least 9 months (previously 3 months) before GDL is issued.

JAN**2008**

The Secretary of State may allow, without fee, the parent or guardian of a person under age 18 who has a Graduated Driver's License or instruction permit to view the person's driving record online.

JAN**2008**

Child Passenger Protection Act strengthened to require any driver transporting a child to restrain the child in a child passenger restraint system.

JAN**2008**

Penalties increased for a driver involved in a personal injury crash who fails to stop at or as close to the scene as possible or report to a nearby police station or sheriff's office as soon as possible.

JUN**2008**

Penalties increased for reckless driving with bodily harm to a child or school crossing guard performing official duties.

AUG**2008**

Second violation of driving with a suspended or revoked license guilty of a Class 4 felony and shall serve a minimum of 30 days imprisonment or 300 hours community service.

AUG**2008**

A wine bottle that has been opened but resealed for removal and transportation from a restaurant must be transported in the trunk of the vehicle or behind the last upright seat of a vehicle with no trunk.

JAN**2009**

First-time DUI offenders who wish to drive during the statutory summary suspension period must have a Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device installed on the vehicle and a Monitoring Device Driving Permit.

JAN**2009**

Crash reporting threshold increased to damage in excess of \$1,500 when all drivers are insured. If any driver is uninsured and there is damage over \$500 to any one person's property, all drivers must report.

JAN**2009**

"Scott's Law" amended to allow suspension or revocation of a person's driving privileges for failing to yield the right-of-way or reduce speed for a stationary authorized emergency vehicle.

JAN**2009**

Criminal Code amended to allow a judge or jury to infer that a defendant's act was reckless homicide and a Class 2 felony if the defendant also violated Scott's Law.

JAN**2009**

Persons who enter a rail grade crossing and obstruct passage of other vehicles or persons shall have driving privileges suspended, in addition to \$500 fine or 50 hours community service.

JAN**2009**

School bus drivers must open the service door and driver's window of the bus before crossing railroad tracks.

JAN**2010**

Using a device to write, send, or read an electronic communication of any kind is prohibited while operating a motor vehicle.

JAN**2010**

Using a wireless phone in a school speed zone or construction or maintenance zone is prohibited while operating a motor vehicle.

JAN**2010**

Law amended to allow for seizure and forfeiture of the vehicle driven by a person while their license is suspended or revoked for reckless homicide.

JAN**2010**

Maximum speed limit for trucks raised to 65mph on interstates outside of the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will.

JAN**2010**

Motor vehicles not specifically designed to be operated on a public highway are subject to mandatory insurance provisions when operated on a street, road, or highway.

JUL**2010**

Motorists must stop and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully in a crosswalk when traffic signals are not in place or not in operation

JUL**2010**

Driving a motor vehicle recklessly close to, toward, or near a bicyclist, pedestrian, horseback rider, or animal-drawn vehicle is a class A misdemeanor.

JUL**2010**

IDOT is required upon request to furnish copies of written crash reports to federal, state, and local agencies engaged in highway safety research and studies.

JAN**2011**

Child Passenger Protection Act amended to increase fines to \$75 for first offense (previously \$50) and \$200 for a second or subsequent offense (previously \$100).

JAN**2011**

Driving privileges shall be immediately revoked of a person convicted of any offense against the provisions of the IVC or local ordinance regulating the movement of traffic that resulted in the death of another person.

JAN**2011**

Eligibility for Restricted Driving Permit (RDP) expanded to allow transportation of elderly or disabled persons needing travel to/from daycare.

JAN**2011**

Persons charged with speeding 40 mph or more over the limit are not eligible for court supervision.

JAN**2011**

Persons convicted of reckless driving or speeding 40 mph or more over the limit may be assessed up to \$100 for each agency forced to initiate an emergency response.

JUL**2011**

Statutory Summary Revocation created (previously Secretary of State administratively suspended driving privileges as Statutory Summary Suspension).

JAN**2012**

In municipalities other than Chicago, when the light at an intersection fails to turn green after a reasonable period, motorcycles and bicycles may proceed on a red light following the rules applicable at a stop sign.

JAN**2012**

Maximum speed limit for trucks raised to 65 mph on all Illinois tollways, and for all or part of highways having at least four lanes of traffic except Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will counties.

JAN**2012**

Law strengthened to allow an employer, upon reasonable suspicion, to test a school bus driver permit holder for the presence of drugs, alcohol, or intoxicating compounds.

JAN**2012**

Safety belt law amended to require all motor vehicle occupants to wear a safety belt unless otherwise exempted by law.

JAN**2012**

No person may ride in a trailer, semitrailer, farm wagon, or other vehicle while it is being towed on a public roadway unless the occupancy of the towed vehicle is necessary to avoid personal danger.

JUL**2013**

Secretary of State to issue certifications to certain individuals to serve as Motorcycle Road Guards: allowing these road guards to stop and/or direct traffic in efforts of protecting large groups of motorcycles.

AUG**2013**

Amend the Aggravated DUI section in the IVC, making the offense of operating a school bus for hire with one or more passengers an "Aggravated DUI."

AUG**2013**

Safety belt requirements do not apply to vehicles of the fire department, Office of the Fire Marshal or ambulances.

JAN**2014**

Amends the Graduated Driver's License Act, citing it at "Kelsey's Law," no GDL may be issued to any applicant under age 18 who has a traffic citation for which a disposition has not yet been rendered.

JAN**2014**

Amends the Code of Corrections by prohibiting court supervision in cases which a defendant's IVC charge or local ordinance violation is determined to be the cause of death.

JAN**2014**

Prohibits tracking devices to determine the location or track a person/entity but does not apply to lawful usage by a law enforcement agency.

JAN**2014**

Amends the Distracted Driving prohibition in the IVC, fines increased upon violation; set at \$75 for the first offense, \$100 for the second, \$125 for a third and \$150 for a fourth or subsequent offense.

JAN**2014**

Separate offenses for construction or maintenance zone speed violations whether or not workers are present.

JAN**2014**

New offense for driving while using a video device, wireless telephone, or communication device. Violating this section results in a Class A misdemeanor.

JAN**2014**

Automated Enforcement violations for passing/overtaking a school bus when loading/unloading children.

JAN**2014**

Raised penalties for vehicle operation with suspended license from Class 3 felony to Class 4 felony if the accident results in bodily harm.

JAN**2014**

Anyone convicted of or pleading guilty to DUI who had a blood test performed after refusal to a breath test will reimburse the cost for the administrations of that blood test; even if the test was non-consensual.

JAN**2014**

Maximum speed limit to 70 mph outside the counties of Cook, DuPage, McHenry, Kane, Lake, and Will on interstate highways; 65 mph on all IDOT designated highways and 55 mph for other roads.

JUN**2014**

The Illinois Vehicle Code was amended to revise Section 11-212 extending the repeal date of the Traffic Stop Statistical Study from 2015 to 2019.

JUL**2014**

Motor vehicles or pedestrians are allowed to enter an intersection under the direction of a flashing yellow traffic-control signal, but must yield to pedestrians and other vehicles already within the intersection.

JUL**2014**

Foreign commercial drivers are subject to disqualification under the same conditions as other commercial motor vehicle drivers. Illinois is now in conformance with the Federal Motor Safety Administration rules.

AUG**2014**

The Monitoring Device Driving Permit allows first-time DUI offenders that have injured only themselves to operate a motorized vehicle provided they install a breath alcohol ignition installation device.

JAN**2015**

Background checks will be strengthened for driver's education course providers and disclosure of that information by an employee of the Secretary of State will be a Class A misdemeanor.

JAN**2015**

Special restricted license permit, allowing persons using a vision aid other than standard eyeglasses or contact lenses, must not have a driving record that includes any motor vehicle accident, where at fault.

JAN**2015**

The Secretary of State will be allowed to cancel a special restricted license for nighttime driving if the license holder violates any provision of the Illinois Vehicle Code during nighttime hours.

JAN**2015**

Highway Emergency Lane Patrol vehicles operating on the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority will be designated as emergency vehicles.

JAN

2015

Individuals cited for certain traffic violations deemed petty offenses will not be required to post bond or bail and eliminates the option to use a driver's license in lieu of bond or bail.

JAN

2015

Ticket quotas will be prohibited for county, municipal, and state law enforcement officers.

JAN

2015

An "autocycle" will be defined as a 3-wheel motor vehicle that has a steering wheel and seating that does not require the operator to straddle or sit astride it.

JAN

2015

Amended speed limit 70 mph on all highways under the jurisdiction of the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority.

JAN

2015

Allows for the Secretary of State to cancel the license of a GDL holder 18 or older if the Secretary determines he/she was charged with a violation of the Liquor Control Act of 1934.

MAY

2015

Designates May as Motorcycle Awareness Month in the State of Illinois.

JUL

2015

Defined Gross Combination Weight Rating (GCWR): stating the GCWR will not be used to classify a vehicle when the vehicle is not towing another unit.

AUG

2015

Allows for a registered motorcyclist to equip his/her motorcycle with standard bulb running lights or light emitting diode pods and/or strips as auxiliary lighting to protect the operator.

JAN

2016

Amended the Illinois Repeat Offender by removing the 30-day hard suspension, allowing for a restricted driving permit immediately following the beginning of their suspension.

JAN

2016

Designates December 23 of each year as Scott's Law Day, to commemorate and honor authorized emergency personnel along with the public safety workers performing duties on Illinois highways.

JAN

2016

Amends the IVC changing guidelines for a driver's eligibility to be issued a restricted driving permit.

JAN

2016

Removes an order of supervision for a driver convicted of speeding in excess of 26 mph or more over the posted speed limit.

JAN

2016

Motor Carrier Penalties provides if a motor vehicle is involved in an accident resulting in great bodily harm, permanent disability/disfigurement such driver is guilty of a Class 3 felony.

JAN

2017

Any driver operating a vehicle requiring a school bus permit shall carry a minimum \$2M liability insurance policy.

JAN

2017

Allows for motorcycles to install a blue light or lights on the rear of the motorcycle as part of the rear stop lamps.

JAN

2017

Any driver approaching a disabled vehicle shall proceed with due caution and move to the lane not adjacent to the disabled vehicle; or if changing lanes isn't possible, slow to an appropriate speed for conditions.

JAN

2017

Allows for a contract carrier to equip such vehicle with a video event recorder as long as the carrier has posted signage notifying passengers their conversations may be recorded.