Maine Biking Laws

Maine law generally gives bicyclists the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicle operators. Bicyclists may use public roads, and they must obey traffic laws such as stopping at red lights and stop signs, yielding to pedestrians at crosswalks, and yielding to traffic when entering a road from a driveway.

Bicyclists must ride with traffic, not against it. They must ride as far to the right as practicable except when passing, avoiding hazards, or preparing for a left turn.

Bicyclists are required to stop for school buses loading or discharging passengers when the red lights are flashing.

Bicyclists may ride on designated bike paths and in bike lanes, but they are not required to do so when such paths or lanes parallel a road. Bikes may be prohibited from riding on divided highways.

Crosswalks are for pedestrians. A bicyclist is required to dismount and walk the bike across marked crosswalks.

Bicyclists must have and use headlights at night, as well as rear reflectors and foot/ankle/pedal reflectors. They also must have functional brakes on their bikes.

Cyclists under 16 must wear bike helmets.

A bike may not be used to carry more persons the number for which it is designed and equipped.

The Maine Operating Under the Influence law does not apply to cyclists, but bicyclists can be arrested for drinking and/or possession of an alcoholic beverage.