

City of Burlington Bicycle Ordinances Compared to Vermont State Laws
SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO CITY ORDINANCES

Subject	State Law	City Law	Change
Abandoned bicycles	None	None	Bicycles may not be left in the city right of way or on city property for more than 14 days; except in designated long term bike parking. Police may remove abandoned bicycles. 6-14
Abreast riding	No more than 2 abreast 23 V.S.A. §1139(b)	No person shall ride or propel a bicycle in traffic abreast of any other person riding a bicycle, except for the purpose of passing. §6-7	No change
Additional rules, making of	N/A	Chief of police may make additional rules. §6-13	Chief may make <u>temporary</u> rules. Limits the duration of temporary rules to 60 days. 6-13
Bicycle registration	None	Required to register bicycles with police. Fee of \$1. §6-25 et seq.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary program • Chief of police establishes fee to cover administration • Chief of police may designate registration to another organization • No requirement for sticker or other registration mark (although, serial number is still required) • Rules and regulations must be disseminated upon registration
Brakes	No person may operate a bicycle unless it is equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement. V.S.A. §1141(c)	No bicycle shall be registered unless it is equipped with an adequate braking device. §6-10	Replace “registered” with “operated.”
Carrying articles	No person operating a bicycle may carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand upon the	None	No change

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	handle bars. 23 V.S.A. §1140		
Cemeteries, bicycles in	N/A	No...bicycles...shall be allowed inside the cemetery grounds except by special permission from the superintendent. §9-12	Permits the Board of Cemetery Commissioners to make regulations regarding the operation of certain vehicles in cemeteries.
Clinging to motor vehicles	No person may attach himself or any bicycle, wagon, roller skates, sled or toy vehicle upon which he is riding or will ride to any motor vehicle. 23 V.S.A. §1138	No person, while riding or operating a bicycle on any street or alley in the city, shall attach his bicycle or himself to any other moving vehicle; nor shall the operator of any other vehicle permit any person riding a bicycle to attach to his moving vehicle. §6-5	No change
Hand signals	Left turn: hand and arm extended arm extended horizontally Right turn: hand and arm extended upward or horizontally Stop or decrease speed: hand and arm extended downward - 23 V.S.A. §1065 No turn shall be made without first giving a signal 23 V.S.A. §1065	It shall be unlawful to turn a bicycle to the right or left upon a highway without first extending a hand in the direction of such turn, or to stop a bicycle upon a highway without first signaling such stop by extending a hand upward. §6-8	No change
Information dissemination	None	None	Stores and rental shops must inform purchasers and renters of rules and regulations. 6-15
Night operation	Lamp in the front which emits light visible from 500 feet; red reflector in the rear visible from 300 feet - 23 V.S.A. §1141	Same, except specifically requires light from ½ hour before sunset to ½ hour after sunrise. §6-11	Added requirement for red light in the rear. 6-11

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Parental responsibility	The parent of any child and the guardian of any ward may not authorize or knowingly permit any such child or ward to violate any of the provisions of this subchapter. 23 V.S.A. §1136(a)	The parents or guardian of a child under sixteen (16) years of age shall not permit any such child or ward to violate any of the provisions of this chapter. §6-2	No change
Parks, bicycles in	N/A	Prohibited from City Hall Park §27-18	No change; moved to 6-3.
Passing of bicycles	None specific to bikes	None specific to bike	Motor vehicles shall give at least three feet of space when passing a bicycle (the so-called three foot rule)
Pedestrian Right of way	None	None	Bicycles must give way to pedestrians on the sidewalk and on bike paths. 6-3
Penalty	For bike-specific violations (23 V.S.A. §§1136 – 1141): \$25; for all other violations: same as motor vehicle. 23 V.S.A. §1136	\$50 - \$500 fine. §6-14 2 nd offense (certain offenses): impoundment of “play vehicle” §27-18(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st offense: civil ticket of \$65 - \$500 (increase minimum to match state) • 2nd and subsequent offenses: civil ticket of \$65-\$500 and possible impoundment of bicycle (new to Chapter 6) • Clarified procedure and length of time bicycles must be kept by police before they are considered abandoned property. 6-16
Play vehicles	None	Chapter 27 defines a bicycle as a “play vehicle”	Changes “play vehicle” to “non-motorized vehicle” and excluded bicycles from the definition (Church Street and city center riding prohibitions were moved to 6-3). 27-18
Rights and responsibilities	Every person riding a bicycle is granted all of the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to operators of vehicles, except as to those provisions which by their very nature can have no application. 23 V.S.A. §1136(c)	Every person riding a bicycle upon the streets, alleys and highways within the city shall observe and comply with all signals, signs and ordinances regulating the operation of	No change (beyond renaming play vehicles)

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		<p>traffic not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter. §6-1</p> <p>Persons operating a play vehicle, defined in Section 27-18 above [includes bicycles], within the public right-of-way shall comply with all relevant traffic regulations and shall operate any such vehicle in a safe manner. §27-19</p>	
Sidewalk speed limit	None	None	Persons operating a bicycle on a sidewalk, in areas where such operation is not otherwise prohibited by this chapter, shall exercise due care, which includes operating the bicycle at a speed reasonable for the existing conditions. 6-3
Sidewalks, riding on	None	<p>Prohibited for persons over 16 within the Inner Fire District. No riding on Church Street except as allowed by the police or Marketplace Commission. §6-3</p> <p>Prohibited for all person within the City Center: Pearl Street, South Winooski Ave., Main Street, St. Paul Street) §27-18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change in actual prohibition areas • Delegates authority to regulate use of bicycles on Church Street to the Church Street Marketplace Commission • Requires bicyclists to give audible signal before passing a pedestrian or bicycle on a sidewalk or bike path • Moved Church Street and City Center prohibitions from Chapter 27 to Chapter 6. 6-3
Two person	No person may use a bicycle to carry	It shall be unlawful for more	No change

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riding	more persons at any one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped. 23 V.S.A. §1137	than one (1) person to ride on a bicycle unless it is a tandem bicycle equipped with two (2) sets of handlebars, two (2) sprockets and two (2) seats. §6-4	
Unauthorized operation of another's bicycle	None	No person shall operate a bicycle belonging to another without the consent of the owner. §6-6	No change
Where to ride in the roadway	A 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. 23 V.S.A. §1139(a)	None	No change
Working order of bicycles	None	No bicycle shall be registered unless it is in good mechanical condition. §6-9	Changed "registered" to "operated" in 6-9.