

## Illinois Traffic-Related Key Events

January	1933	Legal age for alcohol consumption established at age 21 for males and 18 for females.
January	1946	Illinois safety responsibility law enacted.
January	1958	BAC of 0.15 established as the level at which a driver is presumed to be under the influence of alcohol.
January	1963	Legal minimum drinking age established at 21 years of age.
January	1967	Driving while intoxicated (DWI) law changed to include driving under the influence of drugs.
January	1967	Illegal presumption of being under the influence of alcohol lowered to 0.10.
January	1968	Mandatory motorcycle helmet usage law enacted for all riders.
May	1969	Motorcycle helmet usage law repealed.
October	1972	Implied consent law implemented.
January	1973	Legal minimum drinking age changed to allow 19 and 20-year-olds the right to purchase and consume beer and wine.
February	1974	Maximum speed limit reduced to 55 m.p.h.
October	1977	Crash reporting threshold increased to damage in excess of \$250 (previously \$100).
January	1980	Legal minimum drinking age re-established at 21 years of age for all consumption, purchase, and possession of alcoholic beverages.
January	1982	New driving under the influence (DUI)/implied consent law established illegal per se at 0.10 and toughened penalties.
July	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 by a safety belt.
July	1985	Safety belt law enacted to require safety belt use by drivers and front seat passengers. Violation of the law is a primary offense.
January	1986	Color-coded driver's license established to distinguish between drivers under 21 years of age and drivers 21 and older.
January	1986	Statutory summary suspension established to strengthen DUI laws.
May	1987	Speed limit on rural interstates raised to 65 m.p.h. for first division vehicles and second division vehicles carrying less than 8,000 lbs.

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January	1988	Safety belt law amended to make non-use of safety belts by drivers and front seat passengers a secondary offense.
January	1990	Mandatory insurance law enacted to require minimum liability limits.
January	1992	Crash reporting threshold increased to damage in excess of \$500 (previously \$250).
April	1992	Commercial driver's license required if operating a Class A or Class B vehicle.
January	1995	Zero Tolerance law enacted for drivers under the age of 21.
January	1995	Minimum fine for speeding in construction or maintenance zones or school zones doubled (to \$150).
August	1995	Penalties increased for drivers who do not stop when a school bus has stopped to load or unload passengers.
November	1995	Changes in federal legislation allowed Illinois to raise speed limits on certain interstate and freeway-type roads.
January	1997	Results of blood or urine tests of drivers receiving medical treatment in hospital emergency rooms for injuries resulting from a crash are reportable to police for the purpose of determining alcohol and/or drug content.
July	1997	Illegal per se lowered to 0.08 (previously 0.10).
January	1998	School bus drivers caught driving a school bus with any trace of alcohol in their systems lose the school bus driver permit.
January	1998	Graduated Driver's License established for drivers under 21 years of age.
January	1999	Use of ignition interlock devices established as a regular option for the sanction of certain repeat DUI offenders.
August	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.
August	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.
August	2001	Penalties increased for persons convicted of a second or subsequent violation of driving with a suspended or revoked license. Penalties also increased for persons convicted of driving with a license suspended or revoked for DUI, leaving the scene of a personal injury crash, reckless homicide, or failure to submit to chemical testing.
January	2002	Child Passenger Protection Act amended to require that children between the ages of 4 and 15 years, inclusive, be restrained in a safety seat or by a safety belt (previously applicable only to 4 and 5 year-olds). Fines for failure to secure a child in a safety seat doubled.

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January	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 if safe to do so, or otherwise reduce speed and proceed with caution. Included fines and possible license suspension for failure to do so.
January	2002	Minimum fine doubled (to \$300) for second and subsequent speed limit violations in construction or maintenance zones or school zones.
January	2003	"Scott's Law" extended to require drivers entering a construction or maintenance zone where workers are present to make a lane change if safe to do so, or if impossible or unsafe to change lanes, to reduce speed and proceed with caution. Violation of this provision is punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000. DUI while committing the offense is a factor in aggravation. Driving privileges suspended for 90 days to one year for property damage; for 180 days to two years if another person is injured; for two years if another person dies.
January	2003	Law amended to allow for seizure and forfeiture of the vehicle of a person convicted of driving while a license has been suspended or revoked for DUI, leaving the scene of a personal injury crash, reckless homicide, or a statutory summary suspension related to use of alcohol, drugs, or intoxicating compounds.
January	2003	Persons driving a bus for any school-related activity must have a valid school bus permit.
July	2003	Statewide Traffic Stop Statistical Study established to collect data to identify racial bias.
July	2003	Safety belt law amended to provide for mandatory (primary) enforcement.
July	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.
January	2004	Persons under age 18 who obtain a Graduated Driver's License may not drive during the first 6 months of the license, or until the person reaches age 18, with more than one person under age 20 in the vehicle (siblings, step-siblings, children, and step-children excluded).
June	2004	Criminal Code amended to provide that if a defendant commits reckless homicide in a construction or maintenance zone and kills a worker, the defendant is guilty of a Class 2 felony, punishable by imprisonment for 3-14 years. If two or more persons are killed, the defendant may be sentenced to 6-28 years of imprisonment.
August	2004	Automated Traffic Control Systems in Highway Construction or Maintenance Zones Act became effective, allowing speed limit enforcement in construction and maintenance zones through the use of photographs or other recorded images.
August	2004	Fines and other penalties for speeding in a construction or maintenance zone increased. For a second or subsequent conviction within two years of the previous violation, driver's license is suspended for 90 days.

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January	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).
January	2005	Offense of bribery to obtain driving privileges created, with penalties.
January	2005	Vehicle registration application or renewal must include the liability insurance policy number, expiration date, and name of insurer.
January	2005	Reckless driving and aggravated reckless driving offenses expanded to include causing a vehicle to become airborne by using an incline in a roadway (such as a railroad crossing, bridge approach, or hill). If as a result an individual is unintentionally killed, it is a reckless homicide. If two or more are killed, it is a Class 2 felony.
July	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 to contact law enforcement, health care provider, or emergency services agency.
May	2006	Madison County, St. Clair County, Cook County, the collar counties, and the municipalities within those counties may establish by ordinance a photo enforcement system for red light running at intersections. Suspension of driving privileges is allowed as a result of 5 unpaid photo enforcement traffic violations. This photo enforcement system may not be used for recording speed.
June	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.
January	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 based on evidence obtained through automated photo enforcement. Photo enforcement other than in such zones may not be used for recording speed.
January	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.
July	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. If conviction for a similar violation occurs during the suspension, the driving privileges are suspended for an additional 6 months and until the reinstatement fee is paid.
July	2007	Driver's license cancellation for persons age 18 or younger who fail to attend school or are habitually truant.
August	2007	Illinois Liquor Control Act amended to disallow parents/guardians to knowingly permit the consumption of alcohol by underage invitees at their residence. If violation leads directly or indirectly to great bodily harm or death of any person, violation is a Class 4 felony (previously Class A misdemeanor).

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January	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.
January	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. Persons holding a GDL may not drive during the first year (previously 6 months), or until reaching age 18, with more than one person under age 20 in the vehicle. Persons under age 19 (previously 18) may not use a wireless phone while driving except for emergency purposes.
January	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.
January	2008	Child Passenger Protection Act strengthened to require any driver transporting a child to restrain the child in a child passenger restraint system (previously required a driver who was not the parent or guardian to restrain the child only if restraint was provided by the parent or guardian). Any person transporting a child under age 8 in a truck or truck tractor equipped with safety belts is required to restrain the child in the appropriate child restraint.
January	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.
June	2008	Penalties increased for reckless driving with bodily harm to a child or school crossing guard performing official duties.
August	2008	Persons convicted of a second violation of driving with a suspended or revoked license are guilty of a Class 4 felony and shall serve a minimum of 30 days imprisonment or 300 hours community service if original suspension or revocation was for DUI or leaving the scene.
August	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 (previously allowed transportation of resealed bottle in passenger compartment).
January	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. Offenders who decline to obtain a MDDP and BAIID and are caught driving during license suspension are guilty of a Class 4 felony. Commercial vehicle drivers are not eligible for a MDDP to operate a commercial vehicle during the suspension period.
January	2009	Crash reporting threshold increased to damage in excess of \$1,500 when <u>all</u> drivers are insured. If any driver is uninsured and there is damage over \$500 to any one person's property, all drivers must report.
January	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, if the violation resulted in another person's death or injury or in damage to another person's property.

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January	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 pertaining to yielding the right-of-way to a stationary authorized emergency vehicle.
January	2009	Persons who enter a rail grade crossing and obstruct passage of other vehicles, pedestrians, train, or railroad equipment shall have driving privileges suspended, in addition to \$500 fine or 50 hours community service.
January	2009	School bus drivers must open the service door and driver's window of the bus before crossing railroad tracks.
January	2010	Using a device to write, send, or read an electronic communication of any kind (text messages, emails, etc.) is prohibited while operating a motor vehicle.
January	2010	Using a wireless phone in a school speed zone or construction or maintenance zone is prohibited while operating a motor vehicle.
January	2010	Law amended to allow for seizure and forfeiture of the vehicle driven by a person while the license is suspended or revoked for reckless homicide.
January	2010	Maximum speed limit for trucks raised to 65 m.p.h. on interstates outside of the Counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will.
January	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.
July	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 (previously drivers only had to yield by slowing down or stopping if necessary).
July	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. If violation results in great bodily harm, permanent disability, or disfigurement, it is a Class 3 felony.
July	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. Reports are for the privileged use of such agencies and shall be held confidential.
January	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). If violation is for not restraining a child under the age of 8 in a proper restraint system, violators can avoid a first conviction if they show, in court, proof of completion of an instructional course on the installation of a child restraint system, in addition to the required possession of a proper child restraint system (previously only possession of the child restraint system was required).

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January	2011	Driving privileges shall be immediately revoked of a person convicted of any offense against the provisions of the Illinois Vehicle Code or local ordinance regulating the movement of traffic that resulted in the death of another person (previously revocation was discretionary). The revoked offender may request an administrative hearing to have the revocation terminated or time reduced.
January	2011	Eligibility for Restricted Driving Permit (RDP) expanded to allow transportation of elderly or disabled persons needing travel to/from daycare (previously allowed transportation to/from daycare for children only). Persons transported must live with the driver issued the RDP.
January	2011	Persons charged with speeding 40 mph or more over the limit are not eligible for court supervision.
January	2011	Persons convicted of reckless driving or speeding 40 mph or more over the limit may be assessed up to \$100 (up to \$500 for a second or subsequent conviction) for each agency forced to initiate an emergency response as a result of the violation.
July	2011	Statutory Summary Revocation created (previously Secretary of State administratively suspended driving privileges as Statutory Summary Suspension). Refusal to submit to chemical test after being involved in a personal injury crash will result in the statutory summary revocation of driving privileges and disqualification of commercial vehicle driving privileges if the person has Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Offenders may apply for reinstatement after one year of revocation.
January	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. If the driver refuses or test positive, the Secretary of State shall suspend the permit for 3 years.
January	2012	Safety belt law amended to require all motor vehicle occupants to wear a safety belt unless otherwise exempted by law.
January	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 due to extreme weather conditions or other emergency situation: the vehicle does not exceed 15 mph and is being used in a parade, farming-related activity, or similar activity; or the vehicle does not exceed 15 mph and the passenger is over age 18.
January	2012	In municipalities other than the City of Chicago, when the light at an intersection fails to cycle to green after a "reasonable period of time", motorcycles and bicycles may proceed on a red light following the rules applicable at a stop sign. Municipalities with red light running equipment may not issue violations to such motorcyclists for disobeying a traffic control device.
January	2012	Maximum speed limit for trucks raised to 65 mph on all Illinois tollways, and for all or part of highways (previously interstates only) having at least four lanes of traffic with a separation between the roadways moving in opposite directions establishing a uniform speed limit in all counties except Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will. The speed limit for large trucks in those counties will remain 55 mph
July	2013	Secretary of State to issue certifications to certain individuals to serve as Motorcycle Road Guards: allowing these certified road guards to stop and/or direct traffic in efforts of protecting large groups of motorcycles.

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August	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."
August	2013	Safety belt requirements do not apply to vehicles of the fire department, Office of the Fire Marshal or ambulances, unless delivery of life saving measures prohibits the use of a safety belt.
January	2014	Amends the Graduated Driver's License act, citing it as "Kelsey's Law", stating that no GDL may be issued to any applicant under age 18 who has a traffic citation for which a disposition has not been rendered at the time of application. There prosecuting authority may request the courts to enter an order invalidating such driver's license or permit if he/she is convicted of a citation resulting in the death or "Type A" injury of another.
January	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.
January	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 or if given consent by the vehicle's registered owners, lessor/lessee.
January	2014	Amends the Distracted Driving prohibition in the IVC, establishing increased fines 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. Bans the use of all hand-held cell phones and texting devices while driving.
January	2014	Separate offenses for construction or maintenance zone speed violations whether or not workers are present.
January	2014	New offense for driving while using a video device, wireless telephone, or communication device. Violating this section results in a Class A misdemeanor: any violation resulting in death of another, such driver will be charged with a Class 4 felony.
January	2014	Automated Enforcement violations for passing/overtaking a school bus when loading/unloading children.
January	2014	Raised penalties for vehicle operation with suspended license from Class 3 felony to Class 4 felony if the accident results in bodily harm.
January	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.
January	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 55mph for other roads, highways, and streets. The maximum speed limit outside of an urban district for second division vehicles with a gross weight of 8001 lbs or more is set at 55 mph.