



# Secretary of State Jesse White alerts drivers to two new laws impacting motorists for 2019

December 26 2018 11:33 AM

SPRINGFIELD - Two new laws supported by Secretary of State Jesse White that take effect Jan. 1 include child passenger and bike safety initiatives.

The first law will require parents and caregivers to secure children in rear-facing safety seats until they are 2-years-old or weigh 40 pounds or more or measure 40 or more inches tall.

“Children are five times safer riding in a rear-facing seat because their head, neck and spine are better protected in a crash,” White said. “Let’s make sure we keep our children safe by putting them in an appropriate car seat that is properly installed.”

- Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children ages 1-13, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).
- The Illinois Child Passenger Protection Act states that children under age 8 must be secured in an appropriate child restraint system, including booster seats.
- Car seats have been shown to reduce fatal injury by 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for toddlers, according to NHTSA.

The Secretary of State’s office, through its Keep Me in a Safe Seat program, provides child safety seat inspections by certified child safety seat technicians at 10 Driver Services facilities throughout the state. For additional information or to schedule an appointment, please call 866-247-0213 or visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

The second law that will be enacted at the beginning of the year places more emphasis on bicycle safety for those taking Secretary of State driver exams. Test questions on the

Dutch Reach, a technique drivers are encouraged to use in order to avoid hitting bicyclists with their car doors and other bike safety measures will be included on the Secretary of State's driver's exam and in the 2018/2019 Rules of the Road.

“This legislation will help improve safety between drivers and bicyclists who share the roads,” said White. “By adding questions to our written exam about bike safety, drivers will be more aware of the deadly consequences that can occur if they do not follow the Rules of the Road.”

White also reminds Illinoisans that the office issues the Bicycle Rules of the Road to ensure safe bike travel. To obtain a free copy of the Bicycle Rules of the Road, visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) or any Secretary of State's Driver Services Facility.