



Traffic Alert



Garry F. McCarthy, Superintendent of Police

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New Traffic Laws 2012

“Safety belts have proven to be effective at reducing the severity of injuries and saving lives in automobile crashes,” said Secretary of State, Jesse White.

- **Illinois Vehicle Code: “Safety Belts” 625 ILCS 5/12-603.1:**

The new law states that every driver and passenger, (rather than every driver, front seat passengers, and certain passengers under the age of 19), of a motor vehicle operated on a street or highway of this State must wear a properly adjusted seat belt, with specified exceptions. The following have been added to the list of existing exceptions from the requirement to wear a safety belt: (1) driver or passenger of an authorized emergency vehicle, and (2) back seat passenger of a taxicab.

NOTE: *Any occupant of a motor vehicle in traffic who does not secure a safety belt on his body will become a, “PROJECTILE ” within the vehicle in the event of a crash. The unrestrained occupant’s body will be violently thrown about the vehicle slamming into anything or anyone in their path, (including other PROPERLY restrained occupants).*

- **Illinois Vehicle Code: “Traffic Control Signal-Legends” 625 ILCS 5/11-306(C)3.5:**

The new law states in essence that in municipalities with **LESS** than 2 million inhabitants, the driver of a motorcycle facing any steady **RED** signal, which fails to change to a green signal in **A REASONABLE** amount of time, has the right to proceed after yielding the right of way to oncoming traffic facing the green signal.

- **Chicago is NOT included in this law! (MORE than 2 million inhabitants).**

NOTE: Regardless of what was announced in the media, this information was verified with a representative of the Illinois Secretary of State’s office and our office of Legal Affairs.

- **Bicyclists/Motorcyclists must abide by ALL Rules of the Road in Chicago!**