



2021 Roadmap of State Highway Safety Laws Best and Worst States

Best States

A state without a primary enforcement seat belt law covering passengers in all seating positions (front and rear) or that has repealed an existing all-rider motorcycle helmet law within the previous ten years is not eligible for a green rating, regardless of the number of other highway safety laws it has enacted. States must have 11 to 16 laws including both primary enforcement seat belt laws, or 9 or more laws including both primary enforcement seat belt laws and an all-rider helmet law, to achieve a green rating.

NEW YORK ● 13 laws. Missing booster seat law, age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers, and GDL cell phone restriction.

RHODE ISLAND ● 13 laws. Missing all-rider motorcycle helmet law, nighttime restriction and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ● 12 laws. Missing booster seat law, supervised driving requirement, nighttime restriction and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers.

WASHINGTON ● 12 laws. Missing minimum age 16 for learner's permit, nighttime and passenger restrictions and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers.

DELAWARE ● 11 laws. Missing all-rider motorcycle helmet law, rear facing through age 2 law, booster seat law, age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers, and open container law.

MAINE ● 11 laws. Missing all-rider motorcycle helmet law, minimum age 16 for learner's permit, nighttime restriction and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers, and open container law.

OREGON ● 11 laws. Missing minimum age 16 for learner's permit, supervised driving requirement, nighttime and passenger restrictions, and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers.

CALIFORNIA ● 10 laws. Missing minimum age 16 for learner's permit, nighttime and passenger restrictions and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers, ignition interlocks for all-offenders and GDL cell phone restriction.

LOUISIANA ● 10 laws. Missing booster seat law, minimum age 16 for learner's permit, nighttime and passenger restrictions and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers, and open container law.

Worst States

The red rating indicates that the following states are dangerously behind in the adoption of Advocates' optimal laws. States receive a red rating if they have fewer than 7 laws, without both primary enforcement front and rear seat belt laws.

MISSOURI ● Only 3 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt laws, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, rear facing through age 2 law, booster seat law, minimum age 16 for learner's permit, supervised driving requirement, nighttime and passenger restrictions and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers, open container law, all-driver text messaging restriction and GDL cell phone restriction.

WYOMING ● Only 3 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt laws, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, rear facing through age 2 law, booster seat law, minimum age 16 for learner's permit, 6-month holding period, nighttime and passenger restrictions and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers, ignition interlocks for all offenders, open container law and GDL cell phone restriction.

MONTANA ● Only 4 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt laws, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, rear facing through age 2 law, booster seat law, minimum age 16 for learner's permit, nighttime and passenger restrictions and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers, ignition interlocks for all offenders, all-driver text messaging restriction and GDL cell phone restriction.

ARIZONA ● Only 5 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt laws, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, rear facing through age 2 law, booster seat law, minimum age 16 for learner's permit, supervised driving requirement, nighttime and passenger restrictions and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers, and GDL cell phone restriction.

FLORIDA ● Only 6 laws. Missing rear primary enforcement seat belt law, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, rear facing through age 2 law, booster seat law, minimum age 16 for learner's permit, nighttime and passenger restrictions and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers, ignition interlocks for all offenders, and GDL cell phone restriction.

NEBRASKA ● Only 6 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt laws, booster seat law, minimum age 16 for learner's permit, supervised driving requirement, nighttime and passenger restrictions and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers, all-driver text messaging restriction and GDL cell phone restriction.

NEVADA ● Only 6 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt laws, rear facing through age 2 law, booster seat law, minimum age 16 for learner's permit, supervised driving requirement, nighttime and passenger restrictions, age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers, and GDL cell phone restriction.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ● Only 6 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt laws, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, rear facing through age 2 law, booster seat law, minimum age 16 for learner's permit, 6-month holding period, supervised driving requirement, nighttime restriction and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers.

OHIO ● Only 6 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt laws, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, rear facing through age 2 law, booster seat law, minimum age 16 for learner's permit, nighttime restriction and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers, ignition interlocks for all offenders, and all-driver text messaging restriction.

SOUTH DAKOTA ● Only 6 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt laws, all-rider motorcycle helmet law, rear facing through age 2 law, booster seat law, minimum age 16 for learner's permit and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers, ignition interlocks for all-offenders, child endangerment law, and GDL cell phone restriction.

VERMONT ● Only 6 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt laws, rear facing through age 2 law, booster seat law, minimum age 16 for learner's permit, supervised driving requirement, nighttime and passenger restrictions and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers, and child endangerment law.

VIRGINIA ● Only 6 laws. Missing front and rear primary enforcement seat belt laws, booster seat law, minimum age 16 for learner's permit, supervised driving requirement, nighttime and passenger restrictions and age 18 for unrestricted license for teen drivers, open container law and GDL cell phone restriction.