

Legislative Activity in 2020

In 2020, **five laws were passed** that meet the criteria for the basic safety laws included in Advocates' 2021 Roadmap of State Highway Safety Laws (Report). One was repealed. While other legislative activity occurred throughout the states, for purposes of the Report only laws that meet the optimal law criteria are considered.

Note: Laws that do not meet the optimal law criteria, including laws subject only to secondary enforcement, are not included in the legislative activity summary.



New York: Enacted primary enforcement rear seat belt law. *Upgraded from Yellow to Green*



South Dakota: Enacted all-driver texting ban and significant Graduated Drivers Licensing (GDL) upgrades including 6-month holding period, supervised driving requirement, and passenger restriction. *No change in overall rating.*



Missouri: Repealed all-rider motorcycle helmet law.

No change in overall rating.

While a number of highway safety laws have been enacted during the last few years, many are still missing.

Based on Advocates' safety recommendations, states need to adopt 390 laws:

- 16 states need an optimal primary enforcement seat belt law for front seat passengers;
- 30 states need an optimal primary enforcement seat belt law for rear seat passengers;
- 32 states need an optimal all-rider motorcycle helmet law;
- 35 states need a rear facing through age 2 law;
- 34 states and DC need an optimal booster seat law;
- 190 GDL laws need to be adopted to ensure the safety of novice drivers, no state meets all the criteria recommended in this report;
- 29 critical impaired driving laws are needed in 27 states;
- 4 states need an optimal all-driver text messaging restriction; and,
- 19 states need a GDL cell phone restriction.