



STATE HIGHWAY SAFETY LAW CHART as of April 25, 2007

STATE	Primary Enforcement Seat Belt Law	All-Rider Motorcycle Helmet Law	Booster Seat Law	GDL: 6 Mo. Holding Period Provision	GDL: 30-50 hrs. Supervised Driving	GDL: Nighttime Restriction Provision	GDL: Passenger Restriction Provision	Open Container Law	Repeat Offender Law
Alabama	●	●	○	●	○	○	○	●	●
Alaska	●			●	●	○	●		
Arizona				○	○			●	●
Arkansas			○	●					●
California	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	●	
Colorado			○	●	●	○	●	●	●
Connecticut	●		○	○	○	○	●		●
Delaware	●		○	●	●	●	●		●
District of Columbia	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●
Florida				●	●	○		●	●
Georgia	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	●	●
Hawaii	●		●	●		○	●	●	●
Idaho			○	●	●	●	●	●	●
Illinois	●		●	○	●	○	●	●	●
Indiana	●		●	○		○	●	●	●
Iowa	●		○	●	○	○		●	●
Kansas			●	●	●			●	●
Kentucky	●			●	●	○	●	●	●
Louisiana	●	●	○	●		○			
Maine	●		●	●	●	○	●	●	●
Maryland	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	●	●
Massachusetts		●		●	○	○	●	●	
Michigan	●	●		●	●	○		●	●
Minnesota				●	●			●	

Brief Law Descriptions

- Primary enforcement seat belt law:
Requires all motor vehicle occupants to wear a seat belt. A law enforcement officer can cite a driver without having seen any other violation.
- All-Rider Motorcycle Helmet Law:
Requires all motorcycle riders to wear a helmet.
- Booster Seat Law:
The optimal law requires that all children ages 4 to 8 be properly restrained in a forward-facing, internally harnessed or belt-positioning booster seat. States with a booster seat law that does not cover children up to age 8 are partially credited.
- Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL), Learner's Stage:
 - 6 Mo. Holding Period Provision:
A novice driver must be supervised by an adult licensed driver at all times. If the driver remains citation-free for 6 months, then he/she may progress to the Intermediate Stage.
 - 30-50 hrs. Supervised Driving:
A novice driver must receive 30-50 hours of behind-the-wheel training with an adult licensed driver.

● = Optimal law

○ = Some version of law, but does not have all optimal provisions

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Mississippi	●	●		●		●			●
Missouri		●	●	●	●	○	●		●
Montana			○	●	●	○	●	●	●
Nebraska		●	○	●	○	●	●	●	●
Nevada		●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●
New Hampshire			○		○	○	●	●	●
New Jersey	●	●	●	●		○	●	●	●
New Mexico	●		○	●	●	○	●	●	
New York	●	●	○	○	○	●	○	●	●
North Carolina	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●
North Dakota			○	●				●	●
Ohio				●	●	○		●	
Oklahoma	●		○	●	●	○	●	●	●
Oregon	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	●	
Pennsylvania			●	●	●	○		●	●
Rhode Island			○	●	●	○	●	●	
South Carolina	●		○	●	●	●	○	●	●
South Dakota				○		●		●	
Tennessee	●	●	●	●	●	○	●		●
Texas	●			●		○	●	●	●
Utah				●	●	○	●	●	●
Vermont		●	●	●	●		●	●	
Virginia		●	●	●	●	○	●		●
Washington	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●
West Virginia		●	●	●	○	○	○		●
Wisconsin			●	●	●	○	●	●	●
Wyoming			●	○	●	○	●	●	
Total States with Optimal Law	26+ DC	20+ DC	16+ DC	42+ DC	31+ DC	9	33+ DC	40+ DC	38+ DC

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5. GDL Intermediate Stage(to age 18):

a. Nighttime Restriction Provision:

Unsupervised driving is prohibited from 9 or 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. States with any nighttime restriction are partially credited.

b. Passenger Restriction Provision:

The optimal law allows no more than one non-familial teenage passenger. States with any passenger restriction are partially credited.

6. Open Container Law:

The optimal law requires full compliance with the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). The law must: prohibit the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages; cover the entire passenger area of any motor vehicle; apply to all alcoholic beverages; apply to all vehicle occupants except for bus, taxi cab, or limousine passengers, or persons in the living quarters of motor homes; apply to vehicles on highway shoulders; and require primary enforcement.

7. Repeat Offender Law:

The optimal law requires full compliance with TEA-21, thus requiring: a minimum one-year license suspension for repeat intoxicated drivers; all motor vehicles of the offender be impounded or the installation of an ignition interlock system; mandatory alcohol abuse assessment and treatment referral; a minimum jail sentence of 5 days or 30 days of community service for the second offense; and a minimum jail sentence of 10 days or 60 days of community service for the third or subsequent offense.