

Appendix B. State Safety Belt Use Laws				
State/Jurisdiction	Standard Enforcement	Who Is Covered? In What Seats?	Maximum Fine First Offense?	Damages Reduced for Nonuse?
Alabama	Yes	15+ years in front seat	\$25	No
Alaska	Yes	16+ years in all seats	\$15	Yes
Arizona	No	5+ years in front seat; ages 5 through 15 in all seats	\$10	Yes
Arkansas	No	15+ years in front seat	\$25 ¹	No
California	Yes	16+ years in all seats	\$20	Yes
Colorado	No	16+ years in all seats	\$15	Yes ³
Connecticut	Yes	7+ years in front seat	\$15	No
Delaware	Yes	16+ years in all seats	\$25	No
Florida	No (yes for children 6 to 18 years)	6 to 18 years in front seats; ages 18+ in front seat	\$30	Yes
Georgia	Yes	6 through 17 in all seats; 18+ years in front seat	\$15 ³	No
Hawaii	Yes	4 through 17 years in all seats; 18+ years in front seat	\$45	No
Idaho	No	7+ years in all seats	\$10	No
Illinois	Yes	16+ years in front seat; age 18 and under in all seats if driver is younger than age 18.	\$25	No
Indiana	Yes	16+ years in front seat and 8 to 16 years in all seats	\$25	No
Iowa	Yes	11+ years in front seat	\$25	Yes ³
Kansas	No (yes for children under 18 years)	14 through 17 in all seats; 18+ in front seat	\$30	No
Kentucky	Yes	More than 40 inches in all seats	\$25	No
Louisiana	Yes	13+ years in front seat	\$25	No
Maine	Yes	18+ years in all seats	\$50	No
Maryland	Yes	16+ years in front seat	\$25	No
Massachusetts	No	12+ years in all seats	\$25 ⁴	No
Michigan	Yes	4+ years in front seat; ages 4 through 15 in all seats	\$25	Yes ³
Minnesota	No	3 through 10 years in all seats; 11+ years in front seat	\$25	No
Mississippi	Yes	4 through 8 years in all seats; 8+ years in front seat	\$25	No
Missouri	No (yes for children under age 16)	4+ years in front seat; 4 through 16 years in all seats	\$10	Yes ³
Montana	No	6+ years in all seats	\$20	No
Nebraska	No	18+ years in front seat	\$25	Yes ³
Nevada	No	6+ years or less than 60 lbs in all seats	\$25	No
New Hampshire	No law	No law	No law	No
New Jersey	Yes	8 years and younger and more than 80 lbs. 8 through 17 years in all seats; 18+ years in front seat	\$25 ¹	No
New Mexico	Yes	18+ years in all seats	\$25 ²	No
New York	Yes	16+ years in front seats	\$50 ⁵	Yes
North Carolina	Yes (secondary for rear seat occupants)	16+ years in front seat	\$25	No
North Dakota	No	18+ years in front seat	\$20	Yes

Ohio	No	4 through 14 years in all seats; 15+ years in front seat	\$30 driver/\$20 passenger	Yes
Oklahoma	Yes	13+ years in front seat	\$20	No
Oregon	Yes	16+ years in all seats	\$90	Yes
Pennsylvania	No	8 through 17 years in all seats; 18+ years in front seat	\$10	No
Rhode Island	No (yes for children under age 18)	13+ years in all seats	\$57	No
South Carolina	Yes ⁶	6+ years in front seat; 6+ years in rear seat with shoulder belt	\$25	No
South Dakota	No	18+ years in front seat	\$20	No
Tennessee	Yes	16+ years in front seat	\$50 ⁷	No
Texas	Yes	4 years and younger and 36 inches or more; 5 through 16 years in all seats; 17+ years in front seat	\$200	No
Utah	No (yes for children under age 19)	16+ years in all seats	\$45	No
Vermont	No	16+ years in all seat	\$25	No
Virginia	No	16+ years in front seat	\$25	No
Washington	Yes	16+ years in all seats	\$37	No
West Virginia	No	8+ years in front seats; 8 through 18 years in all seats	\$25	Yes ³
Wisconsin	No	4+ years in front seat; 4+ years in rear seat with shoulder belt; 8+ years in front seat	\$10	Yes ³
Wyoming	No	9+ years in all seats	\$25 ⁸ driver/ \$10 passenger	No
District of Columbia	Yes	16+ years in all seats	\$50 ²	No
Puerto Rico	Yes	4+ years in back seat, or up to 12 years in the front seat if there is no belt in the backseat. 13+ years in all seats.	\$50	No
U.S. Virgin Islands	No	5+ years in all seats.	\$100	No information

Note:

¹Arkansas rewards belt use by reducing the fine for the primary violation by \$10.

²This jurisdiction assesses points for violations.

³In Georgia, the maximum fine is \$25 if the child is 6-18 years.

⁴Drivers in Massachusetts may be fined \$25 for violating the belt law themselves and \$25 for each unrestrained passenger 12-16 years.

⁵New York only assesses points when the violation involves a child under 16.

⁶Police are prohibited in South Carolina from enforcing safety belt laws at checkpoints designed for that purpose. However, safety belt violations may be issued at license and registration checkpoints to drivers cited for other offenses.

⁷Drivers 18 and older in Tennessee who choose not to contest the citation pay a \$10 fine by mail; \$20 for drivers who are 16 and 17 years old.

⁸Wyoming rewards belt use by reducing the fine for the primary violation by \$10.

Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 2007 and AAA 2007.