



**National Conference of State Legislatures**  
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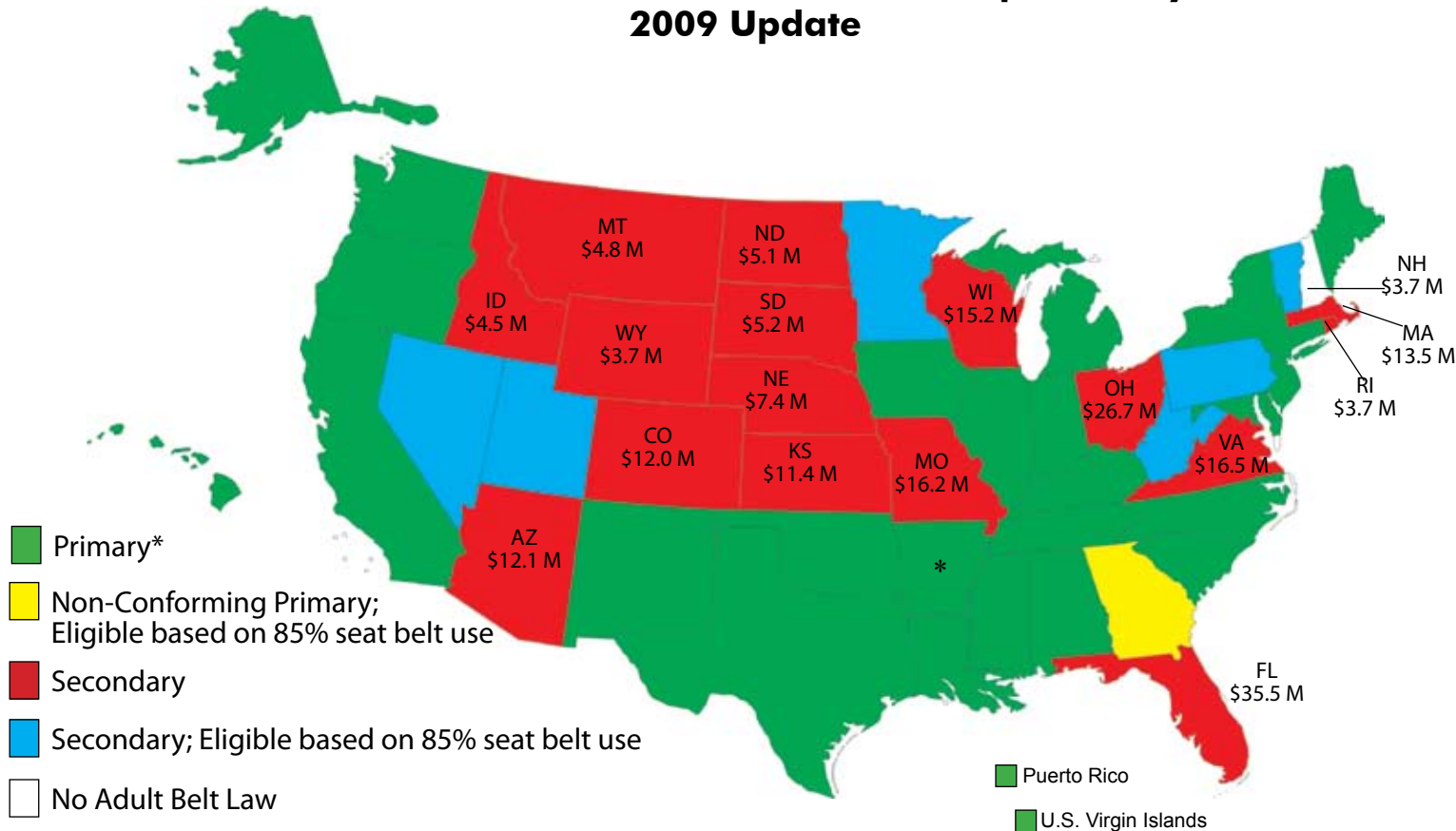
## SAFETEA-LU Section 406 Grants

**States with secondary laws stand to lose more than \$200 million in federal funds.**

- Because buckling up is the quickest and least expensive way to reduce death and injuries on our nation's highways, Congress included a \$498 million state incentive grant program in the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) to boost seat belt use.
- Primary belt laws not only save lives, but also decrease Medicaid costs. For example, Colorado could expect to save at least \$72 million over 10 years, Florida \$117 million, and Missouri \$103 million.
- States without primary belt laws can qualify in two ways:
  - Enact a conforming primary belt law\* by June 30, 2009, with citations issued by September 30, 2009, and immediately qualify for the grant; or
  - Maintain a seat belt use rate of 85 percent or better for two consecutive years between 2006 and 2008. Seven states qualified in this manner: Georgia, Minnesota, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Utah, Vermont and West Virginia
- This grant funding can be used for any highway safety-related purpose, including rebuilding highway infrastructure and other behavioral traffic safety projects, with a minimum of \$1 million to be obligated for behavioral safety activities. No state match is required.
- This program expires in 2009. Any remaining funds will be apportioned to states with primary belt laws. *If Georgia, Minnesota, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Utah, Vermont or West Virginia were to pass a conforming primary belt law, they would be eligible to receive these additional funds.*

\*Primary belt laws allow police to stop and ticket a motorist if the driver and passengers are not buckled up. Non-conforming primary laws allow exceptions for some vehicles, such as pick-up trucks. Secondary belt laws allow police to issue a citation only if the driver is first stopped for another infraction. Arkansas enacted primary seatbelt legislation on March 4, 2009. The act goes into effect immediately, and Arkansas is eligible to receive \$4.9 million.

# SAFETEA-LU Grant Funds Available to States That Adopt Primary Seat Belt Laws 2009 Update



\*See explanation on reverse

Sources: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and National Conference of State Legislatures, March 2009.