

Transportation Safety and Public Health: State Legislative Action, 2010

Appendix B. State Safety Belt Use Laws				
State/Jurisdiction	Primary Enforcement	Who Is Covered? In What Seats?	Maximum Fine First Offense?	Damages Reduced for Nonuse?
Alabama	Yes	Ages 15+ in front seat	\$25	No
Alaska	Yes	Ages 16+ in all seats	\$15	Yes
Arizona	No	Ages 5+ in front seat; ages 5 through 15 in all seats	\$10	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	Ages 15+ in front seat	\$25 ¹	No
California	Yes	Ages 16+ in all seats	\$20	Yes
Colorado	No	Ages 16+ in all seats	\$71	Yes ³
Connecticut	Yes	Ages 7+ in front seat	\$15	No
Delaware	Yes	Ages 16+ in all seats	\$25	No
Florida	Yes	Ages 6 to 18 in front seats; ages 18+ in front seat	\$30	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Ages 6 through 17 in all seats; ages 18+ in front seat	\$15 ³	No
Hawaii	Yes	Ages 4 through 17 in all seats; ages 18+ in front seat	\$45	No
Idaho	No	Ages 7+ in all seats	\$10	No
Illinois	Yes	Ages 16+ in front seat; ages 18 and under in all seats if driver is younger than age 18	\$25	No
Indiana	Yes	Ages 16+ in all seats	\$25	No
Iowa	Yes	Ages 18+ in front seat	\$25	Yes ³
Kansas	Yes (effective 6/10/10)	Ages 14+ in all seats	\$5, effective 7/1/11, \$10	No
Kentucky	Yes	Ages 6 and younger and more than 50 inches in all seats; ages 7+ in all seats	\$25	No
Louisiana	Yes	Ages 13+ in all seats	\$25	No
Maine	Yes	Ages 18+ in all seats	\$50	No
Maryland	Yes	Ages 16+ in front seat	\$25	No
Massachusetts	No	Ages 13+ in all seats	\$25 ⁴	No
Michigan	Yes	Ages 16+ in front seat	\$25	Yes ³
Minnesota	Yes	Ages 7 and younger and more than 57 inches in all seats; 8+ in all seats	\$25	No
Mississippi	Yes	Ages 7+ in front seat	\$25	No
Missouri	No (yes for children under age 16)	Ages 16+ in front seat	\$10	Yes ³
Montana	No	Ages 6+ in all seats	\$20	No
Nebraska	No	Ages 18+ in front seat	\$25	Yes ³
Nevada	No	Ages 6+ in all seats	\$25	No
New Hampshire	No law	No law	No law	No
New Jersey	Yes (secondary for rear seat occupants effective 1/20/11)	Ages 7 and younger and more than 80 lbs; ages 8+ in all seats	\$20	No
New Mexico	Yes	Ages 18+ in all seats	\$25 ²	No
New York	Yes	Ages 16+ in front seats	\$50 ³	Yes
North Carolina	Yes (secondary for rear seat occupants)	Ages 16+ in front seat	\$25	No
North Dakota	No	Ages 18+ in front seat	\$20	Yes

Ohio	No	Ages 4 through 14 in all seats; ages 15+ in front seat	\$30 driver/\$20 passenger	Yes
Oklahoma	Yes	Ages 13+ in front seat	\$20	No
Oregon	Yes	Ages 16+ in all seats	\$90	Yes
Pennsylvania	No	Ages 8 through 17 in all seats; ages 18+ in front seat	\$10	No
Rhode Island	No (yes for children under age 18)	Ages 18+ in all seats	\$75	No
South Carolina	Yes ⁶	Ages 6+ in front seat; ages 6+ in rear seat with shoulder belt	\$25	No
South Dakota	No	Ages 18+ in front seat	\$20	No
Tennessee	Yes	Ages 16+ in front seat	\$50 ⁷	No
Texas	Yes	Ages 7 and younger and 57 inches or more; ages 8+ in all seats	\$200	No
Utah	No (yes for children under age 19)	Ages 16+ in all seats	\$45	No
Vermont	No	Ages 16+ in all seats	\$25	No
Virginia	No	Ages 16+ in front seat	\$25	No
Washington	Yes	Ages 16+ in all seats	\$124	No
West Virginia	No	Ages 8+ in front seats; ages 8 through 17 in all seats	\$25	Yes ³
Wisconsin	Yes	Ages 8+ in all seats	\$10	Yes ³
Wyoming	No	Ages 9+ in all seats	\$25 ⁸ driver/ \$10 passenger	No
District of Columbia	Yes	Ages 16+ in all seats	\$50 ²	No
Puerto Rico	Yes	Ages 4+ in back seat, or up to age 12 in front seat if there is no belt in the back seat; ages 13+ in all seats	\$50	No
U.S. Virgin Islands	No	Ages 5+ in all seats	\$100	No information

Notes:

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 between the ages of 6 and 18.

⁴Drivers in Massachusetts can be fined \$25 for violating the belt law themselves and \$25 for each unrestrained passenger age 12 to 16.

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

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

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

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

Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 2010 and AAA, 2010.