

Current US motorcycle and bicycle helmet laws

March 2008

[Helmet use laws overview](#) | [History of US motorcycle helmet laws](#)

State	Motorcycle helmets		Bicycle helmets (local law may require helmet use for some or all bicyclists)
	Universal law (covers all riders)	Partial law (covers young riders or some adult riders)	Bicyclists covered by state law
Alabama	yes	no	15 and younger
Alaska	no	17 and younger ¹	no law
Arizona	no	17 and younger	no law
Arkansas	no	20 and younger	no law
California	yes	no	17 and younger
Colorado	no	17 and younger and their passengers 17 and younger	no law
Connecticut	no	17 and younger	15 and younger
Delaware	no	18 and younger	15 and younger
District of Columbia	yes	no	15 and younger
Florida	no	20 and younger ²	15 and younger
Georgia	yes	no	15 and younger
Hawaii	no	17 and younger	15 and younger
Idaho	no	17 and younger	no law
Illinois	no law	no law	no law
Indiana	no	17 and younger	no law
Iowa	no law	no law	no law
Kansas	no	17 and younger	no law
Kentucky	no	20 and younger ³	no law
Louisiana	yes	no	11 and younger
Maine	no	14 and younger ⁴	15 and younger
Maryland	yes	no	15 and younger
Massachusetts	yes	no	1 through 16 (riding with children younger than 1 prohibited)
Michigan	yes	no	no law
Minnesota	no	17 and younger ⁵	no law
Mississippi	yes	no	no law
Missouri	yes	no	no law

Montana	no	17 and younger	no law
Nebraska	yes	no	no law
Nevada	yes	no	no law
New Hampshire	no law	no law	15 and younger
New Jersey	yes	no	16 and younger
New Mexico	no	17 and younger	17 and younger
New York	yes	no	1 through 13 (riding with children younger than 1 prohibited)
North Carolina	yes	no	15 and younger
North Dakota	no	17 and younger ⁶	no law
Ohio	no	17 and younger ⁷	no law
Oklahoma	no	17 and younger	no law
Oregon	yes	no	15 and younger
Pennsylvania	no	20 and younger ⁸	11 and younger
Rhode Island	no	20 and younger ⁹	15 and younger
South Carolina	no	20 and younger	no law
South Dakota	no	17 and younger	no law
Tennessee	yes	no	15 and younger
Texas	no	20 and younger ¹⁰	no law
Utah	no	17 and younger	no law
Vermont	yes	no	no law
Virginia	yes	no	no law
Washington	yes	no	no law
West Virginia	yes	no	14 and younger
Wisconsin	no	17 and younger ¹¹	no law
Wyoming	no	17 and younger	no law

¹Alaska's motorcycle helmet use law covers passengers of all ages, operators younger than 18, and operators with instructional permits.

²In Florida, the law requires that all riders younger than 21 years wear helmets, without exception. Those 21 years and older may ride without helmets only if they can show proof that they are covered by a medical insurance policy.

³In Kentucky, the law requires that all riders younger than 21 years wear helmets, without exception. Those 21 years and older may ride without helmets only if they can show proof that they are covered by a medical insurance policy. Motorcycle helmet laws in Kentucky also cover operators with instructional/learner's permits.

⁴Motorcycle helmet laws in Maine cover operators with instructional/learner's permits. Maine's motorcycle helmet use law also covers passengers 14 years and younger and passengers if their operators are required to wear a helmet.

⁵Motorcycle helmet laws in Minnesota cover operators with instructional/learner's permits.

⁶North Dakota's motorcycle helmet use law covers all passengers traveling with operators who are covered by the law.

⁷Ohio's motorcycle helmet use law covers all operators during the first year of licensure and all passengers of operators who are covered by the law.

⁸Pennsylvania's motorcycle helmet use law covers all operators during the first two years of licensure unless the operator has completed the safety course approved by PennDOT or the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.

⁹Rhode Island's motorcycle helmet use law covers all passengers (regardless of age) and all operators during the first year of licensure (regardless of age).

¹⁰Texas exempts riders 21 years or older if they can either show proof of successfully completing a motorcycle operator training and safety course or can show proof of having a medical insurance policy.

¹¹Motorcycle helmet laws in Wisconsin cover operators with instructional/learner's permits.

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