

STATE MOTORCYCLE HELMET USE LAWS

As of October 2006

State	Universal law (1)	Partial law (1)
Alabama	X	
Alaska		17 and younger (2)
Arizona		17 and younger
Arkansas		20 and younger
California	X	
Colorado		
Connecticut		17 and younger
Delaware		18 and younger
District of Columbia	X	
Florida		20 and younger (3)
Georgia	X	
Hawaii		17 and younger
Idaho		17 and younger
Illinois		
Indiana		17 and younger
Iowa		
Kansas		17 and younger
Kentucky		20 and younger (3), (4)
Louisiana	X	
Maine		14 and younger (4)
Maryland	X	
Massachusetts	X	
Michigan	X	
Minnesota		17 and younger (4)
Mississippi	X	
Missouri	X	
Montana		17 and younger
Nebraska	X	
Nevada	X	
New Hampshire		
New Jersey	X	
New Mexico		17 and younger
New York	X	
North Carolina	X	

North Dakota		17 and younger (5)
Ohio		17 and younger (6)
Oklahoma		17 and younger
Oregon	X	
Pennsylvania		20 and younger (7)
Rhode Island		20 and younger (7)
South Carolina		20 and younger
South Dakota		17 and younger
Tennessee	X	
Texas		20 and younger (3)
Utah		17 and younger
Vermont	X	
Virginia	X	
Washington	X	
West Virginia	X	
Wisconsin		17 and younger (2)
Wyoming		18 and younger

(1) Universal laws cover all riders; partial laws cover young riders or some adult riders.

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

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

Texas exempts riders 21 years or older if they either 1) can show proof of successfully completing a motorcycle operator training and safety course or 2) can show proof of having a medical insurance policy.

(4) Motorcycle helmet laws in Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, and Wisconsin also 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.

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

(6) Ohio'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.

(7) Rhode Island's motorcycle helmet use law covers

all operators during the first year of licensure and all passengers. Pennsylvania'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 the department or the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.

Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety,
Highway Loss Data Institute