



BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE

SAFE PASSING LAWS

At the League of American Bicyclists, we think that every state should make it clear that drivers bear the responsibility for safely passing a bicyclist. In 2017 we made a safe passing law one of our 5 Bicycle Friendly Actions featured in our Bicycle Friendly State program. Learn more at bikeleague.org/bicycle-friendly-actions.

| State | Statute | Defined Distance | Change Lanes to Pass if Available | Driver may cross double-yellow | Limited in Application | Written for Bikes | Last Change |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Alabama | 32-5A-82 | "not less than 3 feet" | | | Yes | Yes | 2015 |
| Alaska | 13 AAC 02.065 | "safe distance" | | | | No | |
| Arizona | 28-735 | "not less than 3 feet" | | | | Yes | 2000 |
| Arkansas | 27-51-311 | "not less than 3 feet" | | | | Yes | 2016 |
| California | 21760 | Shall not pass at "a distance of less than three feet" | | | | Yes | 2013 |
| Colorado | 42-4-1002; 42-4-1003; 42-4-1004 | "at least a three-foot" | | | | Yes | 2009 |
| Connecticut | 14-232 | "not less than 3 feet" | | | | Yes | 2013 |
| Delaware | § 4116 | "a minimum of 3 feet" | Yes | | | Yes | 2017 |
| District of Columbia | DMC 18-2202 | "in no case less than 3 feet" | | | | Yes | 2009 |
| Florida | 316.083 | "not less than 3 feet" | | Yes (316.0875) | Yes | Yes | 2021 |
| Georgia | § 40-6-56 | "not less than 3 feet" | Yes | | | Yes | 2021 |
| Hawaii | §291C-43(2) | "at least three feet" | | | | Yes | 2018 |
| Idaho | 49-632 | "safe distance" | | | | No | |
| Illinois | 11-703 | "not less than 3 feet" | | | | Yes | 2007 |
| Indiana | 9-21-8-5 | "at least three feet" | | Yes | | Yes | 2019 |
| Iowa | 321.299 | "safe distance" | | | | No | |
| Kansas | §8-1516 | "not less than 3 feet" | | | | Yes | 2011 |
| Kentucky | KRS 189.340 | "not less than 3 feet" | Yes | | | Yes | 2018 |
| Louisiana | R.S. 32:76.1 | "not less than 3 feet" | | Yes | | Yes | 2011 |
| Maine | §2070 | "not less than 3 feet" | | | | Yes | 2013 |
| Maryland | § 21-1209 | "not less than 3 feet" | | Yes (§ 21-307) | Yes | Yes | 2020 |

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| Massachusetts | Ch. 90, §14; Ch. 89, §2 | "safe distance" | | | | Somewhat | |
| Michigan | 257.636(2) | "at least 3 feet" | | | | Yes | 2020 |
| Minnesota | 169.18 | "in no case less than three feet " | | | | Yes | 2020 |
| Mississippi | § 63-3-1309 | "not less than 3 feet" | | | | Yes | 2013 |
| Missouri | 300.411 | "safe distance" | | | | Yes | |
| Montana | 61-8-320 | "safely without endangering" | | Yes | | Yes | |
| Nebraska | 60-6,133 | "no less than 3 feet" | | | | Yes | 2012 |
| Nevada | 484B.270(2) | "not less than 3 feet" | Yes | Yes | | Yes | 2021 |
| New Hampshire | 265:143-a | "at least 3 feet" with one additional foot for every 10 mph above 30 mph | | | | Yes | 2008 |
| New Jersey | 39:4-85 | "not less than four feet" | | | Yes | Yes | 2021 |
| New Mexico | 66-7-310 | "safe distance" | | | | Yes | |
| New York | § 1122-a | "safe distance" | | | | No | |
| North Carolina | § 20-149; 20-150(e) | "at least two feet" and if in a no-passing zone then a minimum of four feet or completely entering the left lane of the highway. | | Yes | | Yes | 2016 |
| North Dakota | 39-10-11.1 | "no less than 3 feet" | | | | Yes | 2021 |
| Ohio | 4511.27 | "safe distance" = 3 feet or greater | | | | No | 2018 |
| Oklahoma | §47-11-1208 | "not less than 3 feet" | Yes | Yes | | Yes | 2020 |
| Oregon | 811.065 | a distance sufficient to prevent contact with the person operating the bicycle if the person were to fall into the driver's lane of traffic | Yes | | | Yes | 2007 |

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| Pennsylvania | § 3303 | "not less than 4 feet" | | | | Yes | 2012 |
| Rhode Island | § 31-15-18 | a distance sufficient to prevent contact with the person operating the bicycle if the person were to fall into the driver's lane of traffic | | Yes | Yes | Yes | 2021 |
| South Carolina | 56-5-3435 | "safe operating distance" | | | | No | |
| South Dakota | 32-26-26.1 | "a minimum of 3 foot" if speed limit 35 mph or less "a minimum of 6 feet" if speed limit greater than 35 mph | | Yes | | Yes | 2015 |
| Tennessee | 55-8-175(c)(2) | "not less than 3 feet " | | | | Yes | 2007 |
| Texas | 545.053 | "safe distance" | | | | No | |
| Utah | 41-6a-706.5 | may not knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly: operate a motor vehicle within "within three feet" | | | | Yes | 2020 |
| Vermont | § 1033 | "safe distance"/ due care | | | | Yes | |
| Virginia | § 46.2-839 | "at least three feet" | Yes | Yes | | Yes | 2021 |
| Washington | 46.61.110 | "where practicable at least three feet" | | | | Yes | 2019 |
| West Virginia | §17C-7-3 | "not less than three feet at a careful and reduced speed" | | | | Yes | 2014 |
| Wisconsin | 346.075 | "in no case less than 3 feet" | | | | Yes | 2019 |
| Wyoming | 31-5-203(c) | "at least a 3 foot separation" | | | | Yes | 2015 |

THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS' MODEL SAFE PASSING LAW

The League of American Bicyclists' model law can be found at <https://bikeleague.org/content/model-safe-passing-law-0>