



# BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE

## VULNERABLE ROAD USER LAWS

Vulnerable Road User laws increase protection for bicyclists and other road users who are not in cars. These laws usually involves:

- 1) harsher penalties for the violation of existing laws when that violation impacts a defined set of road users, and/or
- 2) the creation of new laws that prohibit certain actions directed at a defined set of road users.

Learn more at [bikeleague.org/content/model-vulnerable-road-user-law](http://bikeleague.org/content/model-vulnerable-road-user-law) and [bikeleague.org/bike-law-university](http://bikeleague.org/bike-law-university).

State	Vulnerable Road User references	Defines a Vulnerable (Road) User	Specifically prohibits thrown objects	Specifically prohibits harassment	Creates a distinct or increased penalty for people who injure or kill a bicyclist or pedestrian
Alabama	No Law found				
Alaska	No Law found				
Arizona					28-735(b)
Arkansas					27-51-311(b)(1)
California			VC 23110		
Colorado	42-4-1402.5	42-4-1402.5	18-9-116	42-4-1008.5	42-4-1402.5, 42-4-1008.5
Connecticut	14-300i.	14-300i			14-212c, 14-300i
Delaware	§ 4176	21 § 4176 (d)(3)			21 § 4176(d)
District of Columbia				DC Code § 50-1621	DC Code § 50-1621
Florida	316.027	316.027			316.027, 316.1923
Georgia					40-6-77
Hawaii	707-700	707-700			707-702.5; 707-703; 707-704(2); 707-705
Idaho	No Law found				
Illinois					11-703(f)
Indiana	No Law found				
Iowa			321.281	321.281	
Kansas	No Law found				
Kentucky	No Law found				

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Louisiana			32 §201	32 §201	
Maine	29-A MRSA §101, sub §91-A; 29-A MRSA §2251, sub-§12	29-A MRSA §101, sub §91-A	29-A MRSA §2120(2)	29-A MRSA §2120(2)	29-A MRSA §2120(3); 29-A MRSA §2251, sub-§12 (requires enhanced reporting)
Maryland	21-901.3	21-901.3(a)	21-1209(b) & (c)		21-901.3(c) and (d)
Massachusetts	No Law found				
Michigan	No Law found				
Minnesota	No Law found				
Mississippi			63-3-1313	63-3-1313	
Missouri	No Law found				
Montana	No Law found				
Nebraska	No Law found				
Nevada			205.2741		484B.363(6); 484B.653(2)
New Hampshire	No Law found				
New Jersey	No Law found				
New Mexico	No Law found				
New York					VAT § 1146
North Carolina	No Law found				
North Dakota	No Law found				
Ohio	No Law found				
Oklahoma					47-11-1208
Oregon	801.608; 811.135; 811.060	801.608			811.060; 811.135
Pennsylvania	No Law found				
Rhode Island	31-15-20	31-15-20			31-15-20

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South Carolina			56-5-3445	56-5-3445	56-5-3500
South Dakota	No Law found				
Tennessee					55-8-197(a)(6)
Texas					545.428 (if injured in a crosswalk with an active "Walk" signal)
Utah	41-6a-706.5	41-6a-706.5		41-6a-706.5(2)(a)-(c)	41-6a-706.5(3)
Vermont	§ 1033; § 1039; § 4.	23 § 4(81)	23 § 1039	23 § 1039	
Virginia	46.2-816.1	46.2-816.1			46.2-816.1
Washington	46.61.526	46.61.526			46.61.526
West Virginia	No Law found				
Wisconsin	340.01(74p); 38.04(4)(e)7; 343.30(1); 343.31; 343.71(5)(g)	340.01(74p)			343.30; 343.31
Wyoming	No Law found				

## TALKING POINTS ABOUT VULNERABLE ROAD USER LAWS

- » A Vulnerable Road User Law provides general deterrence for bad behaviors around vulnerable users.
- » A Vulnerable Road User Law can fill legal gaps between less and more severe offenses, providing additional charging options to local prosecutors.
- » A Vulnerable Road User Law recognizes and provides a tool for crashes that result in serious injury or death, which have severe societal costs.

*Criminal Charges, and punishments, appear to be rare when bicyclists and pedestrians are killed.*

- » A 2014 report by the [League of American Bicyclists](#) reviewed media reports related to 628 bicyclist fatalities that occurred in 2012 and found reports that drivers were punished in only 12% of reported fatalities.
- » A 2013 report by the [Center for Investigative Reporting](#) found that in 238 pedestrian fatalities 60% of motorists found to be at fault or suspected of a crime faced no criminal charges.