



Safe Passing Laws

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State	Citation	Passing standard	Written for Bikes
Alabama	32-5A-82	"not less than 3 feet"	Y
Alaska	13 AAC 02.065	"safe distance"	N
Arizona	28-735	"not less than 3 feet"	Y
Arkansas	27-51-311	"not less than 3 feet"	Y
California	21760	"shall not overtake or pass ... at a distance of less than three feet"	Y
Colorado	42-4-1002; 42-4-1003; 42-4-1004	"at least a three-foot"	Y
Connecticut	14-232	"not less than 3 feet"	Y
Delaware	§ 4116	Vehicles must change lanes on 4 lane road with 2 lanes in the overtaking direction and pass with "a minimum of 3 feet"	Y
District of Columbia	DMC 18-2202	"in no case less than 3 feet"	Y
Florida	316.083	"not less than 3 feet"	Y
Georgia	§ 40-6-56	"not less than 3 feet"	Y
Hawaii	§291C-43	"safe distance"	N
Idaho	49-632	"safe distance"	N
Illinois	11-703	"not less than 3 feet"	Y
Indiana	9-21-8-5	"safe distance"	N
Iowa	321.299	"safe distance"	N
Kansas	§8-1516	"not less than 3 feet"	Y
Kentucky	KRS 189.340	"reasonably clear"	N
Louisiana	§76.1	"not less than 3 feet"	Y
Maine	§2070	"not less than 3 feet"	Y
Maryland	§ 21-1209	"not less than 3 feet"	Y
Massachusetts	Ch. 90, §14; Ch. 89, §2	"safe distance"	Y
Michigan	257.636	"safe distance"	N
Minnesota	169.18	"in no case less than three feet"	Y
Mississippi	§ 63-3-1309	"not less than 3 feet"	Y
Missouri	300.411	"safe distance"	Y
Montana	61-8-320	"safely without endangering"	Y
Nebraska	60-6.133	"no less than 3 feet"	Y
Nevada	484B.270(2)	"not less than 3 feet"	Y
New Hampshire	265:143-a	"at least 3 feet" with one additional foot for every 10 mph above 30 mph	Y
New Jersey	39:4-85	Bicycles are not vehicles under New Jersey law and there are reports of law enforcement not applying this law to vehicles passing bicycles.	N
New Mexico	66-7-310	"safe distance"	N
New York	§ 1122-a	"safe distance"	Y
North Carolina	§ 20-149	"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.	N/Y (only written for bikes in a limited circumstance)
North Dakota	39-10-11	"safe distance"	N
Ohio	4511.27	When a motor vehicle or trackless trolley overtakes and passes a bicycle, three feet or greater is considered a safe passing distance.	Y
Oklahoma	§47-11-1208	"not less than 3 feet"	Y
Oregon	811.065	"safe distance" = 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	Y
Pennsylvania	§ 3303	"not less than 4 feet"	Y
Rhode Island	§ 31-15-18	"safe distance" = 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	Y
South Carolina	56-5-3435	"safe operating distance"	Y
South Dakota	32-26-26.1	"a minimum of 3 foot" if "the posted limit is 35 mph or less" and "a minimum of 6 feet" if "the posted limit is greater than 35 mph."	Y
Tennessee	55-8-175(c)(2)	"not less than 3 feet"	Y
Texas	545.053	"safe distance"	N
Utah	41-6a-706.5	"may not knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly: operate a motor vehicle within three feet"	Y
Vermont	§ 1033	"safe distance" / due care	Y
Virginia	§ 46.2-839	"at least three feet"	Y
Washington	46.61.110	"safe distance to clearly avoid coming into contact with"	Y
West Virginia	§17C-7-3	"not less than three feet at a careful and reduced speed"	Y
Wisconsin	346.075	"in no case less than 3 feet"	Y
Wyoming	31-5-203(c)	"at least a 3 foot separation"	Y