



Safe Passing Laws

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State	Citation	Passing standard	Written for Bikes	Year Passed
Alabama	32-5A-82	"not less than 3 feet" when a roadway has a marked bicycle lane, or a speed limit of 45 miles per hour or less and the roadway does not have a double yellow line separating cars from oncoming traffic indicating a no passing zone, and the bicyclist is riding within two feet of the right shoulder of the roadway.	N/Y <small>(only written for bikes in a limited circumstance)</small>	2015
Alaska	13 AAC 02.065	"safe distance"	N	
Arizona	28-735	"not less than 3 feet"	Y	2000
Arkansas	27-51-311	"not less than 3 feet"	Y	2007
California	21760	"shall not overtake or pass ... at a distance of less than three feet"	Y	2013
Colorado	42-4-1002; 42-4-1003; 42-4-1004	"at least a three-foot"	Y	2009
Connecticut	14-232	"not less than 3 feet"	Y	2008
Delaware	§ 4116	Vehicles must change lanes when another lane traveling in the same direction is available to the left or when a lane is too narrow pass with at least a 3 foot distance with both the vehicle and bicycle in the lane, in all other circumstances a vehicle must pass to the left at a reasonable and prudent distance that can "never be less than 3 feet"	Y	2017
District of Columbia	DMC 18-2202	"in no case less than 3 feet"	Y	2009
Florida	316.083	"not less than 3 feet"	Y	2006
Georgia	§ 40-6-56	"not less than 3 feet"	Y	2011
Hawaii	§291C-43	"safe distance"	N	
Idaho	49-632	"safe distance"	N	
Illinois	11-703	"not less than 3 feet"	Y	2007
Indiana	9-21-8-5	"safe distance"	N	
Iowa	321.299	"safe distance"	N	
Kansas	§8-1516	"not less than 3 feet"	Y	2011
Kentucky	KRS 189.340	If there is more than one lane for traffic proceeding in the same direction vehicles must move to the immediate left lane if the lane is available and it is safe to do so, if there is only one lane of traffic then "not less than 3 feet"	Y	2018
Louisiana	§76.1	"not less than 3 feet"	Y	2009
Maine	§2070	"not less than 3 feet"	Y	2007
Maryland	§ 21-1209	"not less than 3 feet"	Y	2010
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	2004
Mississippi	§ 63-3-1309	"not less than 3 feet"	Y	2010
Missouri	300.411	"safe distance"	Y	
Montana	61-8-320	"safely without endangering"	Y	
Nebraska	60-6,133	"no less than 3 feet"	Y	2012
Nevada	484B.270(2)	"not less than 3 feet"	Y	2011
New Hampshire	265:143-a	"at least 3 feet" with one additional foot for every 10 mph above 30 mph	Y	2008
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 <small>(only written for bikes in a limited circumstance)</small>	1995 & 2016
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	2016
Oklahoma	§47-11-1208	"not less than 3 feet"	Y	2006
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	2012
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	2015
Tennessee	55-8-175(c)(2)	"not less than 3 feet"	Y	2007
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	2006
Vermont	§ 1033	"safe distance"/ due care	Y	
Virginia	§ 46.2-839	"at least three feet"	Y	2014
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	2014
Wisconsin	346.075	"in no case less than 3 feet"	Y	1973
Wyoming	31-5-203(c)	"at least a 3 foot separation"	Y	2015