



Motorcycle Laws by State

Remember that while other laws vary from state-to-state, all 50 states require a motorcycle operator's license.

The AMA assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of information included in this guide. Every effort has been made to ensure the information is accurate at the time of publication.

Legend

● required if manufactured on or after this date.

◇ annual emissions inspections required in Maricopa County

* Pennsylvania requires mirrors of all vehicles manufactured after 4/1/1977. Mirrors are required by inspection regulations.

TRAFFIC ACTUATED SIGNALS

NOTE: Regarding motorcycles proceeding at traffic controlled red lights when the presence of the vehicle does not cause the light to change, after a complete stop and exercising due caution.

RIDING 2 ABREAST IN SAME LANE

NOTE: Vermont and Virginia are the only states to expressly forbid riding two abreast in the same lane. All other states permit it, either by notation or by lack of reference in administrative code or statutes.

PASSENGER SEATS & FOOTRESTS

NOTE: Mississippi, Missouri & Canada do not show laws requiring passenger seats or footrests. Texas does not require footrests. All other states require both a passenger seat and footrests for any vehicle actively carrying a passenger.

	Traffic Actuated Signal (after complete stop)	Passenger Age Restrictions	Helmet Speakers	Mirror- see ● for date information	Periodic Safety Inspection	Turn Signals- see ● for date
Alabama				required		
Alaska				required	random	
Arizona				required	◇	
Arkansas	Permitted with caution	none under 8		required		
California			single earphone only	required	random	required
Colorado				required	random	
Connecticut				required	random	
Delaware				required	required	
Florida				required		required
Georgia			for communication only	required		
Hawaii		none under 7		required	required	
Idaho	After one full cycle			required		
Illinois				required		
Indiana				after 1/1/56		
Iowa				required		
Kansas				required on left	random	after 1973
Kentucky				required		
Louisiana		none under 5		required on left	required	required
Maine				required	required	after 1974
Maryland			single earphone only	required	upon title transfer	required
Massachusetts			possession prohibited	required	required	required
Michigan				required	random	
Minnesota	Affirmative Defense		single earphone only	required	random	
Mississippi					required	
Missouri					required	
Montana				required		
Nebraska						
Nevada				required		after 1973
New Hampshire				required	required	
New Jersey				required	required	
New Mexico				required	random	required
New York			single earphone only	required	required	after 1985
North Carolina	After 180 seconds			required	required	
North Dakota				required		
Ohio				required	random	after 1968
Oklahoma				required		
Oregon				required	random	required
Pennsylvania			for communication only	* see legend	required	
Rhode Island			possession prohibited	required	required	
South Carolina	After 120 seconds			required		
South Dakota				required		required
Tennessee	Permitted with caution			required		
Texas				required	required	
Utah				required	required	
Vermont				required	required	required
Virginia			communication only	required	required	
Washington		none under 5		required	random	
West Virginia				required	random	required
Wisconsin	After 30 seconds			required	random	required
Wyoming				required		
Dist. Of Columbia				required	required	
Puerto Rico				required	required	
Canada						