

State 3-Foot Passing Laws

Enacted

Arizona – “When overtaking and passing a bicycle proceeding in the same direction, a person driving a motor vehicle shall exercise due care by leaving a safe distance between the motor vehicle and the bicycle of not less than three feet...” Sets fines if violation causes death or injury. Enacted in 2000.

Arkansas – “... pass to the left at a safe distance of not less 3 feet...” Sets fines in case of death or injury. Enacted in 2007.

Colorado - The law requires motorists give bicycles at least 3 feet or risk a \$110 fine. Also states anyone who throws an object at bicyclist be charged with class 2 misdemeanor, which carries a \$250 to \$1,000 fine and 3 to 12 month jail sentence. Enacted in 2009

Connecticut – “... safe distance means not less than three feet when the driver of a vehicle overtakes and passes a person riding a bicycle.” Enacted 2008

Advocacy Contact: Charles Beristain, Bike Walk Connecticut cberistain@wecyclect.org

Florida – “... must pass the bicycle or other nonmotorized vehicle at a safe distance of not less than 3 feet between the vehicle and the bicycle or other nonmotorized vehicle.” See also Florida Bicycle Law guide published by the [Florida Bicycle Association](#). Enacted 2006.

Georgia — “Better Bicycle Bill” mandates that vehicles allow at least 3 feet of space when passing cyclists. Enacted 2011. Advocacy Contact: Brent Buice, Georgia Bikes,

info@georgiabikes.org

Illinois – “... leave a safe distance, but not less than 3 feet...” Enacted 2007. Advocacy Contact: Ed Barsotti, League of Illinois Bicyclists. ed@bikelib.org

Louisiana - Motor vehicle operator “shall leave a safe distance between the motor vehicle and the bicycle of not less than three feet and shall maintain such clearance until safely past the overtaken bicycle.” Also includes anti-harassment provision. See "[Louisiana governor signs 3-foot rule](#)". Enacted 2009.

Maine – “... exercise due care by leaving a distance between the motor vehicle and the bicycle of not less than 3 feet...” See also [Bicycle Coalition of Maine: New Bicycle Laws](#). Enacted 2007.

Maryland – “...when overtaking a bicycle... pass safely at a distance of not less than 3 feet...” Enacted 2010.

Massachusetts – “[T]he driver of a vehicle passing another vehicle traveling in the same direction shall drive a safe distance to the left of such other vehicle and shall not return to the right until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle; and, if the way is of sufficient width for the two

vehicles to pass, the driver of the leading one shall not unnecessarily obstruct the other. If it is not possible to overtake a bicycle or other vehicle at a safe distance in the same lane, the overtaking vehicle shall use all or part of an adjacent lane if it is safe to do so or wait for a safe opportunity to overtake. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on visible signal and shall not increase the speed of his vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.” Statute updated 2009.

Minnesota – “ ... shall leave a safe distance, but in no case less than three feet clearance, when passing the bicycle or individual...” Enacted 2004.

Mississippi - Requires 3 feet when passing, and forbids throwing objects at bicyclists from cars. Enacted 2010.

Nevada - Requires a driver to overtake and pass a bicycle or an electric bicycle proceeding in the same direction by: (1) moving the vehicle into the immediate left lane, if there is more than one lane traveling in the same direction and it is safe to move into the lane; or (2) passing to the left of the bicycle or electric bicycle at a distance of not less than 3 feet from the bicycle or electric bicycle. Enacted 2011.

New Hampshire – “... the distance shall be deemed to be reasonable and prudent if it is at least 3 feet when the vehicle is traveling at 30 mph or less, with one additional foot of clearance for every 10 mph above 30 mph.” Enacted 2008.

Oklahoma - “... exercise due care by leaving a safe distance between the motor vehicle and the bicycle of not less than three (3) feet until the motor vehicle is safely past the overtaken bicycle.” Enacted 2006.

Tennessee - Creates a subsection known as “Jeff Roth and Brian Brown Bicycle Protection Act of 2007 ... shall leave a safe distance between the motor vehicle and the bicycle of not less than three feet and shall maintain such clearance until safely past the overtaken bicycle.” Enacted 2007

Utah – “An operator of a motor vehicle may not knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly operate a motor vehicle within three feet of a moving bicycle, unless the operator of the motor vehicle operates the motor vehicle within a reasonable and safe distance of the bicycle.” Enacted 2006.

Vermont- Motorists are required to pass bicyclists, pedestrians, people on horseback, roller skiers, and other vulnerable roadway users with “due care, which includes increasing clearance, to pass the vulnerable user safely.” Enacted 2010. Advocacy Contact: Nancy Schulz, VT Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition, Nancy@VTBikePed.org

Wisconsin – “... shall exercise due care, leaving a safe distance, but in no case less than 3 feet clearance when passing the bicycle or electric personal assistive mobility device...” Enacted 1973. Advocacy Contact: Kevin Luecke, Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin, Kevin.luecke@bfw.org

Jurisdiction

Boise, Idaho - City Council passes law requiring that cars leave 3 feet of space when passing a bicycle. Cars must yield to bicycles in intersections and cannot cut-off cyclists when turning. Also illegal to throw objects at bicyclists or otherwise harass them. Added Jan. 13, 2010.

Introduced in 2011

Idaho – On the agenda.

Advocacy Contact: Tim Adams, Teton Valley Trails and Pathways, Inc. tim@tvtap.org

Indiana – On the agenda.

Advocacy Contact: Nancy Tibbett, Bicycle Indiana. nancy@bicycleindiana.org

Iowa – Introduced.

Advocacy Contact: Mark Wyatt, Iowa Bicycle Coalition. mark@iowabicyclecoalition.org

Missouri – Introduced.

Advocacy Contact: Brent Hugh, Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Federation.

Director@MoBikeFed.org

New Mexico – 5 foot passing law currently in Senate Judiciary Committee.

Advocacy Contact: Diane Albert, Bicycle Coalition of New Mexico. dalbert@cybermesa.com

North Dakota – Status: rejected

Ohio – On agenda.

Advocacy Contacts: Kevin Cronin, ClevelandBikes. kevin.cronin.ohio@gmail.com

Lois Moss, Walk+Roll. lois@walkroll.com

Pennsylvania – 4 foot passing law introduced.

Advocacy Contact: Josh Karns, PA Walks and Bikes. pawalkbike@gmail.com

Virginia – Passed Senate Transportation Committee.

Advocacy Contact: Allen Muchnick, Virginia Bicycling Federation. muchnick@capaccess.org.

Washington – Tabled until 2012.

Advocacy Contact: Barbara Culp, Bicycle Alliance of Washington. BarbC@bicyclealliance.org

Wyoming – Status: rejected.

Advocacy Contact: Tim Young, Friends of Pathways. tim@friendsofpathways.org