



Legislative Activity in 2019

In 2019, **12 laws were passed** that meet the criteria for the basic safety laws included in Advocates' 2020 Roadmap of State Highway Safety Laws (Report). While other legislative activity occurred throughout the states, for purposes of the Report only laws that meet the optimal law criteria, as defined on pages 11 and 12, are considered. *Note: Laws that do not meet the optimal law criteria, including laws subject only to secondary enforcement, are not included in the legislative activity summary.*



Arizona: Enacted primary enforcement all-driver texting ban.



Arkansas: Enacted primary enforcement GDL cell phone ban.



District of Columbia: Enacted rear facing through age 2 law and extended GDL cell phone ban.



Florida: Enacted primary enforcement all-driver texting ban.



Kentucky: Enacted ignition interlock device requirement for all offenders.



Louisiana: Enacted rear facing through age 2 law.



Maine: Enacted rear facing through age 2 law and optimal booster seat requirement.
Upgraded from yellow to green.



New Jersey: Enacted ignition interlock device requirement for all offenders.



New Mexico: Enacted child endangerment law.



Washington: Enacted rear facing through age 2 law.

States are failing to close important safety gaps because they have not adopted the lifesaving safety laws listed below. While a number of highway safety laws have been enacted during the last few years, many laws considered to be fundamental to highway safety are still missing in many states.

Based on Advocates' safety recommendations, states need to adopt 395 laws:

- 16 states need an optimal primary enforcement seat belt law for front seat passengers;
- 31 states need an optimal primary enforcement seat belt law for rear seat passengers;
- 31 states need an optimal all-rider motorcycle helmet law;
- 35 states need a rear facing through age 2 law;
- 34 states and DC need an optimal booster seat law;
- 193 GDL laws need to be adopted to ensure the safety of novice drivers, no state meets all the criteria recommended in this report;
- 30 critical impaired driving laws are needed in 27 states;
- 5 states need an optimal all-driver text messaging restriction; and,
- 19 states need a GDL cell phone restriction.