

State Bumper Requirements

State Equipment and Road Use Law Summaries

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has a standard that establishes requirements for the impact resistance of vehicles in low speed front and rear collisions. This federal standard applies to passenger motor vehicles other than multipurpose passenger vehicles (motorhomes and conversion vehicles). Individual states have the authority to establish requirements for vehicles operated or registered in that state or for modifications made by the vehicle owner.

Note that some states have height requirements based on vehicle weight, frame heights or other criteria. For additional information, please review the state cite provided in the left column.

State/Cite	Requirements/Exemptions	Modifications to Original Bumper	Other Information
Alabama	No Provisions Found		
Alaska 13 AK ADC 04.272	If motor vehicle was equipped, when assembled, with bumpers they cannot be removed.		
Arizona	No Provisions Found		
Arkansas	No Provisions Found		
California West's Ann.Cal.Vehicle Code § 28071 West's Ann.Cal.Vehicle Code § 24011.3	Every registered passenger vehicle must be equipped with a front and rear bumper. Exempts motorhomes and motor vehicles constructed on a truck chassis.		State has bumper labeling requirements for vehicles < 10,000 GVWR.
Colorado	No Provisions Found		
Connecticut	No Provisions Found		
Delaware 21 Del.C. § 4318	Every passenger vehicle required to be registered. Exempts motor vehicles > 9,999 lbs GVWR.		Cannot exceed 22" from the ground to bottom of bumper.

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Florida West's F.S.A. § 316.251	Every motor vehicle < 5,000 lbs GVWR must be equipped with bumpers.		State has bumper specifications.
Georgia	No Provisions Found		
Hawaii HRS § 291-35.1 HRS § 437-4.5		Any vehicle with bumpers or attaching components which have been modified or altered from the original manufacturer's design to conform with the maximum bumper height requirements, shall have the bumper height measured from a level surface to bottom of bumper.	State has bumper specifications. State has bumper labeling requirements for vehicles < 10,000 lbs GVWR.
Idaho I.C. § 49-966	Motor vehicles shall be equipped with bumpers except when the original manufacturer did not include a front or rear bumper in vehicle's original specifications.		State has bumper specifications.

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Illinois 625 ILCS 5/12-608 625 ILCS 5/1-169	<p>Motor vehicles registered as recreation vehicles must be equipped with both a front and rear bumper. Prohibits front bumper height exceeding 28" and rear bumper height exceeding 30".</p> <p>Recreation vehicle is every camping trailer, motor home, mini motorhome, travel trailer, truck camper or van camper used primarily for recreational purposes and not used commercially nor owned by a commercial business.</p>	<p>Bumpers on any vehicle modified or altered from original manufacturer's design shall be at least 4.5" in vertical height and extend no less than the width of the respective wheel tracks outermost distance.</p> <p>Vehicles where bumper or attaching components have been modified or altered, are measured from a level surface to the bottom of the vehicle frame rail at the most forward and rearward points of the frame rail.</p>	<p>Measured from a level surface to the highest point of the bottom of the bumper when vehicle is unloaded.</p> <p>State has bumper specifications.</p>
Indiana IC 9-19-4-1 IC 9-19-4-3	<p>Motor vehicles registered as passenger cars (includes motorhomes) that were originally equipped with bumpers as standard equipment must be so equipped. A vehicle with a frame or body that extends more than 60" beyond the rear of the rear axle and is more than 42" above the roadway may not be operated on a highway unless the vehicle is equipped with a bumper on the extreme rear of the frame or body. Bumper must extend downward from the rear of frame or body to within 30" of the roadway and must be of</p>	<p>Bumper height may not vary more than 3" from the original manufactured bumper height for the vehicle.</p>	

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State/Cite	Requirements/Exemptions	Modifications to Original Bumper	Other Information
	substantial construction.		
Iowa IA ADC 76 450.2(321)			State has minimum bumper requirements for specially constructed, reconstructed and kit motor vehicles other than motorcycles.
Kansas	No Provisions Found		
Kentucky	No Provisions Found		

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State/Cite	Requirements/Exemptions	Modifications to Original Bumper	Other Information
Louisiana 55 LA ADC Pt III, § 813. (safety inspection)	Bumpers required if originally equipped. However, rear bumpers are not required on pickup trucks. Bumper must be securely attached and not broken or protruding.	Vehicle must be equipped with bumpers made of equivalent material to original equipment and must be equal in strength.	
Maine 29-A M.R.S.A. § 1920			State has frame height specifications.
Maryland MD Code, Transportation, § 22- 105 § 11-136.2 MD ADC 11.13.03.02		Cannot be altered in any manner that would reduce the effectiveness of its bumpers or suspension or render the vehicle dangerous in the event of a single vehicle accident or a collision with another vehicle. Shall be equipped with a front and a rear bumper if a rear bumper was originally installed by manufacturer.	As a result of post manufacture alterations, vehicle bumper cannot exceed 28" for Class M (includes motorhomes) vehicle. State has bumper specifications.
Massachusetts	No Provisions Found		

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Michigan M.C.L.A. 257.710c	Requires motor vehicles to be equipped with a bumper or other energy absorption system with an analogous function which bumper or system is securely bolted or permanently attached on both the front and rear of the vehicle. Exempts vehicles with a GVWR > 10,000 lbs		Measured from ground to highest point of bumper bottom when the vehicle is unladen with tires inflated to manufacturer's recommended pressure. State has bumper specifications.
Minnesota M.S.A. § 169.73	Four-wheeled private passenger vehicles (includes motorhomes) and other multipurpose vehicles shall be equipped with front and rear bumpers. Pickup trucks and vans shall be equipped with front bumpers and with either rear bumpers or reflectors.	Vehicle must be equipped with bumpers equal to the original equipment.	Measured from bottom of bumper, excluding any vertical bumper attachments, to the ground. State has bumper specifications.
Mississippi	No Provisions Found		
Missouri V.A.M.S. 307.172	Motor vehicle shall be equipped with front and rear bumpers if such vehicle was equipped with bumpers as standard equipment.		State has bumper specifications.

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Montana MCA 61-9-430	Motor vehicles with a GVWR < 10,000 lbs must be equipped with a front bumper and, unless vehicle is equipped with work-performing features that make installation impractical or unnecessary, with a rear bumper. Exempts vehicles not originally equipped with front or rear bumpers or vehicles for which bumpers were not required by federal law or regulation at time of manufacture.		
Nebraska	No Provisions Found		
Nevada	No Provisions Found		
New Hampshire N.H. Rev. Stat. § 266:9	Any passenger or multipurpose passenger vehicle shall be rejected if not equipped with a bumper attached to the front and rear of the vehicle. Private passenger vehicle is a vehicle that has no provision for carrying a load other than a conventional trunk or the cargo area of a station wagon or similar type of vehicle.	No person shall change the height of, or alter a bumper of a private passenger vehicle so that the height of any horizontal bumper falls below the minimum distance of 16" or above the maximum distance of 20".	Measured from level ground to bottom of bumper with tires inflated to manufacturer specifications.
New Jersey	No Provisions Found		
New Mexico	No Provisions Found		

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New York McKinney's Vehicle and Traffic Law § 375 McKinney's Vehicle and Traffic Law § 416-a	Passenger car must be equipped with both a front and rear bumper, each securely fastened and with some part of the bumper located between 16" and 20" above ground. Passenger car does not include a van, minivan, multipurpose passenger vehicle.		State has bumper labeling requirements for passenger type motor vehicles
North Carolina	No Provisions Found		
North Dakota NDCC, 39-21-45.1	Motor vehicles with a GVWR of < 7,001 lbs must be equipped with front and rear bumpers.	A horizontal drop bumper may be used to comply with bumper height requirements but it must be at least 3" in vertical width; extend the entire horizontal body width; and be horizontal, load bearing and attached to vehicle frame to effectively transfer impact when engaged.	Maximum bumper height permitted is 27". Measurement is made from a level ground surface to highest point on bottom of bumper.

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State/Cite	Requirements/Exemptions	Modifications to Original Bumper	Other Information
Ohio R.C. § 4513.021 OH ADC 4501-43-02 OH ADC 4501-43-03 OH ADC 4501-43-04	Registered multipurpose passenger vehicle (includes motorhome built on truck chassis) must have a bumper on the front and rear of vehicle if it was equipped with bumpers as standard equipment by manufacturer.		Maximum bumper heights shall be determined by the type of vehicle at time of manufacture. If other than a passenger vehicle, the maximum bumper height shall be determined by the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) at the time of manufacture. Height measured from vertical distance between the ground and the highest point of the bottom of the bumper, measured when the vehicle is laden on a level surface with the vehicle tires inflated to the manufacturer's recommended pressure. State has bumper specifications.
Oklahoma		No Provisions Found	
Oregon		No Provisions Found	

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Pennsylvania 75 Pa.C.S.A. § 4536 67 PA ADC § 175.78	No person shall operate any vehicle upon a highway without bumpers unless the vehicle was originally designed and manufactured to be used without bumpers.	A vehicle shall be equipped with bumpers of a type used as original equipment, or a suitable replacement which is equal to or greater in strength than that provided by the vehicle manufacturer, securely attached to the chassis or frame.State has height specifications for altered/supplemental bumpers.	State has bumper specifications.
Rhode Island RI ADC 46 100 021		Every passenger vehicle shall remain equipped with front and rear devices or bumpers as originally installed by manufacturer.	
South Carolina Code 1976 § 56-5-4930 Code 1976 § 56-5-4910	Every private passenger automobile shall be equipped with an energy absorption system. Exempts multipurpose passenger automobiles. Private passenger automobile means a 4-wheeled motor vehicle designed for carrying 10 persons or less, except a multipurpose passenger vehicle which is constructed either on a truck chassis or with special features for occasional off-road operation.		
South Dakota	No Provisions Found		

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Tennessee T. C. A. § 55-9-215	Motor vehicle must be equipped with a bumper or other energy absorption system with an analogous function. Makes an exemption for vehicles which have designs which would intrinsically preclude conformity with this provision.		State has bumper specifications.
Texas	No Provisions Found		
Utah U.C.A. 1953 § 41-6a-1632	Motor vehicle shall be equipped with a bumper on both front and rear of vehicle, except those that were not originally designed or manufactured with a bumper or bumpers.		State has bumper specifications for motor vehicles.
Vermont VT ADC 14 050 022	Motor vehicle shall be equipped with front and rear bumpers if such vehicle was originally equipped with bumpers as standard equipment.		Measured from vertical distance between the ground and the highest point of the bottom of the bumper, measured on a level surface with the vehicle tires inflated to the manufacturer's recommended pressure. State has bumper specifications.

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Virginia Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-1063		No passenger motor vehicle shall be driven if it has been modified by alteration of its altitude from the ground to the extent that its bumpers, measured to any point on the lower edge of the main horizontal bumper bar, exclusive of bumper guards, are not within the range of 14" to 22" above the ground.	State has bumper specifications for pickup trucks < 15,000 lbs GVWR.
Washington West's RCWA 46.37.513	Motor vehicle must be equipped with bumpers or any other collision energy absorption system, if it was originally equipped. No person shall remove or disconnect, and no owner shall cause or knowingly permit the removal or disconnection of, any part of that system except temporarily in order to make repairs, replacements, or adjustments.		
West Virginia W. Va. Code, § 17C-15-48		Modifications to motor vehicles required to be registered must be within specified limits for its GVWR category. Exemption for motor vehicles > 10,000 lbs GVWR.	State has bumper specifications.

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Wisconsin WI ADC s Trans 305.18	Motor vehicles required by federal law to be equipped with bumpers or crash resistance protection shall be equipped with bumpers. 49 CFR part 581 does not require bumpers on multipurpose passenger vehicles.	Replacement equipment shall be same type as originally required or equivalent size, strength and surface area.	
Wyoming	No Provisions Found		
District of Columbia 18 DC ADC § 733	Motor vehicles, except motorcycles and motorized bicycles, shall be equipped with bumpers in front, securely attached and extending beyond the extreme front of the vehicle. Motor vehicles of the passenger car class (includes motorhomes), taxicabs, buses, and light commercial vehicles up to and including one and one-quarter (1-1/4) ton capacity shall be equipped with a bumper on the rear of each vehicle securely attached to and extending beyond the extreme rear of the vehicle.		

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