

## State "keep right" laws

All states allow drivers to use the left lane (when there is more than one in the same direction) to pass. Most states restrict use of the left lane by slow-moving traffic that is not passing. The table below describes the law in effect in each state.

A few states permit use of the left lane **only** for passing or turning left. These have "yes" in the "keep right" column. Some states require drivers to move right if they are blocking traffic in the left lane. These have "yield" in the "keep right" column. Most states follow the Uniform Vehicle Code and require drivers to keep right if they are going slower than the normal speed of traffic (regardless of the speed limit; see below). These are listed as "slower". A few states either do not require vehicles to keep right ("no"), or permit vehicles moving at the speed limit to drive in the left lane regardless of traffic conditions (" $< SL$ ").

State "Keep Right" Laws

State	Keep Right?	Law	Comments
Alabama	Slower	<a href="#">32-5A-80(b)</a>	
Alaska	< SL	<a href="#">13 AAC 002.50(b)</a>	
Arizona	Slower	<a href="#">28-721(B)</a>	
Arkansas	Other	27-51-301(b)	Law prohibits obstructing traffic by driving continuously in the left lane.
California	Slower	<a href="#">CVC 21654(a)</a>	The duty of slower traffic to keep right applies "notwithstanding the prima facie speed limits."
Colorado	Slower	42-4-1001(2), 42-4-1103(3), 42-4-1013	The left lane is reserved for passing where the speed limit is 65 or higher. A <a href="#">state police brochure</a> discusses the law.
Connecticut	Slower	<a href="#">14-230(b)</a>	Passing on right on Interstate prohibited when only two lanes: <a href="#">14-233(4)</a> .
Delaware	Slower	<a href="#">21-4114(b)</a>	
Florida	Yield	<a href="#">316.081(2) and (3)</a>	Slower traffic keep right and all traffic yield left lane to traffic approaching from behind.

Georgia	Yield	<a href="#">40-6-40(b)</a> , <a href="#">40-6-184</a> , <a href="#">HB 459 of 2013-2014</a>	Slower traffic keep right and all traffic yield left lane to traffic approaching from behind.
Hawaii	Slower	<a href="#">291C-41(b)</a>	Honolulu prohibits driving more than 5 MPH under the limit in the left lane.
Idaho	Slower	<a href="#">49-630(2)</a>	
Illinois	Yes	<a href="#">625 ILCS 5/11-701(b), (d)</a>	Keep right except to pass on limited access highways since January 1, 2004.
Indiana	Slower	<a href="#">9-21-8-2(b)</a>	
Iowa	Slower	<a href="#">321.297(2)</a>	
Kansas	Yes	<a href="#">8-1522(c)</a> , <a href="#">8-1514(b)</a>	Keep right except to pass since July 1, 2009.
Kentucky	Yes	<a href="#">189.340(7)</a>	Keep right except to pass where speed limit is at least 65.
Louisiana	Yes	<a href="#">R.S. 32:71</a>	On multilane highways keep right except to pass and move right if blocking overtaking traffic.
Maine	Yes	<a href="#">29A-2052(6)</a>	Keep right except to pass where speed limit is at least 65.
Maryland	< SL	<a href="#">21-301</a>	Keep right if driving 10 MPH under speed limit, or slower than speed of traffic if conditions require speed below limit
Massachusetts	Yes	<a href="#">MGL 89-4B</a>	Passing on right prohibited on undivided two-way road, <a href="#">MGL 89-2</a> .
Michigan	Maybe	<a href="#">257.634</a>	Keep right except to pass except in heavy traffic or on freeways with three or more lanes.
Minnesota	Slower	<a href="#">169.18(10)</a>	
Mississippi	Slower	<a href="#">63-3-603(d)</a>	
Missouri	Slower	<a href="#">305.015(3)</a>	<a href="#">305.151</a> prohibits "obstruct[ing] the regular flow of traffic on...any state highway.
Montana	Slower	<a href="#">61-8-321(2)</a>	

Nebraska	Slower	<a href="#">60-6.131(2)</a>	
Nevada	Slow	<a href="#">484B.627</a>	Slow- moving vehicles must move right if "imped [ing] ... movement of traffic."
New Hampshire	Slower	<a href="#">RSA 265:16</a>	
New Jersey	Yes	39:4-88	Keep right except to pass. Passing on right prohibited unless vehicles are in "substantially continuous lines." 39:4-85.
New Mexico	Slower	66-7-308(b)	
New York	Slower	<a href="#">V&amp;TL 1120</a>	
North Carolina	< SL	<a href="#">20-146(b),(e)</a>	Keep right if below speed limit.
North Dakota	Slower	39-10-08(2)	
Ohio	< SL	<a href="#">4511.25</a>	
Oklahoma	Slower	<a href="#">47-11-301</a> , <a href="#">47-11-309</a>	One law requires vehicles below the speed limit to keep right. Another requires vehicles below the normal speed of traffic to keep right.
Oregon	Slower	<a href="#">811.315</a>	
Pennsylvania	Usually	75-3313(d), 75-3301(b)	May also use left lane to allow traffic to merge or "when traveling at a speed greater than the traffic flow."
Puerto Rico	< SL	<a href="#">Title 9 §5123</a>	
Rhode Island	Slower	<a href="#">31-15-2</a>	No passing on right on two-way street. <a href="#">31-15-5</a> .
South Carolina	Slower	<a href="#">56-5-1810</a>	
South Dakota	No	<a href="#">32-26-1</a>	Only "slow moving vehicles" need to keep right.
Tennessee	Slower	55-8-115(b)	
Texas	Slower		

		<a href="#">545.051(b)</a>	Most rural interstates are posted "left lane for passing only" pursuant to <a href="#">544.011</a> . Passing on right prohibited except on one-way roadways. <a href="#">545.057</a> .
Utah	Yield	<a href="#">41-6a-701</a> , <a href="#">41-6a-704</a>	Must move right to let faster traffic pass.
Vermont	Slower	<a href="#">23-1031(b)</a>	
Virginia	Yield	<a href="#">46.2-804(1)</a> , <a href="#">46.2-842.1</a>	Yield left lane to faster traffic on signal. <a href="#">State police say</a> this applies even when faster traffic is speeding.
Washington	Usually	<a href="#">46.61.100</a>	May also use left lane to allow traffic to merge or "when traveling at a speed greater than the traffic flow."
West Virginia	Slower	<a href="#">17C-7-1(b)</a>	
Wisconsin	Slower	<a href="#">346.05(3)</a>	
Wyoming	Slower	<a href="#">31-5-201(b)</a>	Since July 1, 2005, it is illegal to block traffic moving within the speed limit by driving in the left lane for a long time.

The Uniform Vehicle Code states:

Upon all roadways any vehicle proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven in the right-hand lane then available for traffic ...

This law refers to the "normal" speed of traffic, not the "legal" speed of traffic. The 60 MPH driver in a 55 MPH zone where everybody else is going 65 MPH must move right. Contrast Alaska's rule, 13 AAC 002.50, allowing vehicles driving at the speed limit to use the left lane, and Colorado rev. stat. 42-4-1103, prohibiting blocking the "normal and reasonable" movement of traffic.

Enforcement is inconsistent. Toledo police used to ticket truck drivers for driving at the 60 MPH speed limit in the left lane. Police looking for criminal activity frequently use the "keep right" law as a pretext to stop a suspicious car. On the other hand, a New York judge announced that he would not convict drivers for blocking speeding traffic, *People v. Ilieveski*, 175 Misc. 2d 943; 670 N.Y.S.2d 1004 (Monroe County N.Y. 1998).

See also the [speed law](#) list.

[Do the right thing!](#): June is lane courtesy month.

This page by [John Carr](#).

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