

## State Laws and Policies for Child Passenger Safety in For-Hire Motor Vehicles

| State,<br>Citation   | CRS Required?               |                             | General CRS Requirements  |   |   |   | Seat belt<br>required for<br>children<br>younger than<br>13 who are not<br>in a CRS? | Exceptions to<br>CRS and seat<br>belt<br>requirements<br>for ridesharing<br>or taxis                               |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|
|  | Ridesharing*                | Taxis*                      | Seating<br>position<br>specifications                                     | Ages, weights,<br>and heights for<br>which any CRS<br>is required   | Penalties for violations  | Means of enhancing<br>compliance  |  |  |
| <b>Alabama,</b><br>Ala. Code §§<br>32-5-222  | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | No                          | Yes, rear-<br>facing and<br>forward-<br>facing<br>specified. <sup>1</sup> | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 6.   | \$25 fine for CRS and child<br>seat belt violations. 1 point<br>assigned to license for first-<br>time CRS or child seat belt<br>violations, 2 points assigned<br>to license for second-time or<br>subsequent CRS or child seat<br>belt violations. | Portion of CRS fine used to<br>provide low-income families<br>with CRS vouchers. CRS fine<br>waived if violator purchases a<br>CRS after violation and<br>provides proof to the court.  | Yes  | CRS and child<br>seat belt<br>requirements<br>exempt taxis,<br>vehicles with<br>seating capacity<br>of 11 or more. |
| <b>Alaska,</b><br>Alaska Stat.<br>Ann. §§<br>28.05.095,<br>28.05.099,<br>09.65.094 | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes, rear-<br>facing<br>specified. <sup>2</sup>                           | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8, shorter<br>than 57", and<br>weighing less<br>than 65 pounds.<br>Also applies to<br>children aged 8-<br>15 if shorter than<br>57" or less than<br>65 pounds. | \$50 fine and points assigned<br>to license for CRS and child<br>seat belt violations.  | CRS technicians who install<br>or inspect a CRS without a fee<br>are not liable for damages.<br>CRS violation fines are<br>waived if violator obtains a<br>CRS after the violation and<br>provides proof to a police<br>officer.  | Yes  | None.  |
| <b>Arizona,</b><br>A.R.S. §§<br>28-907,<br>28-909                                  | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | No  | Applies to all<br>children younger<br>than 5, children<br>younger than 8<br>and shorter than<br>58".  | \$50 fine for CRS violations.<br>\$10 maximum fine for child<br>seat belt violations. Seat belts<br>– secondary enforcement.  | Hospitals must inform new<br>parents of state CRS law and<br>options for obtaining a CRS.<br>A state fund is established to<br>provide CRS to low-income<br>families. CRS fine waived if<br>violator purchases a CRS after<br>violation and provides proof<br>to the court. | Yes  | None.  |

<sup>1</sup> Alabama law specifies that infant-only and convertible seats must be rear-facing until the child reaches the age of one or weighs at least 20 pounds. Additionally, convertible seats must be forward-facing until the child reaches the age of five or weighs at least 40 pounds.

<sup>2</sup> Alaska law specifies that children must be restrained in a rear-facing child safety seat until the child reaches the age of one and weighs at least 20 pounds.

## State Laws and Policies for Child Passenger Safety in For-Hire Motor Vehicles

| State,<br>Citation  | CRS Required?  |  | General CRS Requirements   |  |   |   | Seat belt<br>required for<br>children<br>younger than<br>13 who are not<br>in a CRS? | Exceptions to<br>CRS and seat<br>belt<br>requirements<br>for ridesharing<br>or taxis |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
|   | Ridesharing*   | Taxis*   | Seating<br>position<br>specifications  | Ages, weights,<br>and heights for<br>which any CRS<br>is required                | Penalties for violations  | Means of enhancing<br>compliance  |  |  |
| <b>Arkansas,</b><br>A.C.A. §§<br>27-34-102,<br>27-34-103,<br>27-34-104,<br>27-34-107                    | Yes, driver<br>responsible.  | No   | No   | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 6 and<br>weighing less<br>than 60 pounds. | \$25-100 fine for CRS and<br>child seat belt violations.  | CRS awareness and education<br>campaigns, state program<br>established to lend CRS to<br>hospitals, organizations, and<br>individuals who need them.<br>CRS fine reduced to minimum<br>if violator purchases a CRS<br>after violation and provides<br>proof to the court.   | Yes  | CRS and child<br>seat belt<br>requirements<br>exempt taxis.                          |
| <b>California,</b><br>Cal Vehicle<br>Code<br>§§ 12810,<br>27315,<br>27360,<br>27362,<br>27363,<br>27365 | Yes,<br>parent/guardian<br>are<br>responsible if<br>present in<br>vehicle.   | Yes,<br>parent/guardian<br>are<br>responsible if<br>present in<br>vehicle. | Yes, rear-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>front seat<br>restrictions,<br>exemptions<br>when only lap<br>belts are<br>available. <sup>3</sup> | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and shorter<br>than 57”.                | \$100 fine and one point<br>assigned to license for a first-<br>time CRS or child seat belt<br>violation, \$250 fine and one<br>point assigned to license for<br>subsequent violations.<br>Violators may be required to<br>attend a CRS training class. | CRS education campaigns.<br>Hospitals must inform new<br>parents of state CRS law and<br>options for obtaining a CRS.<br>Car rental companies must<br>inform customers about state<br>CRS laws. Low-income CRS<br>or seat belt violators can have<br>their fines waived by<br>attending a class. CRS fines<br>used to fund education<br>campaigns & distribute CRS. | Yes  | None.  |
| <b>Colorado,</b><br>C.R.S.A. §§<br>42-4-236,<br>42-4-1701,<br>42-2-105.5                                | Yes,<br>parent/guardian<br>are<br>responsible if<br>present in<br>vehicle,<br>otherwise<br>driver is<br>responsible. | No   | Yes, rear-<br>facing and<br>forward-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>front seat<br>restrictions. <sup>4</sup>                                 | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8.  | \$81 fine for CRS and child<br>seat belt violations. Additional<br>penalties for CRS or child seat<br>belt violations when driver is<br>younger than 18. <sup>5</sup>   | CRS education campaigns.  | Yes  | CRS and child<br>seat belt<br>requirements<br>exempt taxis.                          |

<sup>3</sup> California law requires children younger than 2, shorter than 40”, and weighing less than 40 pounds to be secured in a rear-facing CRS. California law also specifies that children under 8 cannot sit in the front seat of a vehicle except under special circumstances. California law allows children weighing more than 40 pounds to be secured by only a lap belt in a rear seat if only lap belts are available in the rear seat(s) of the vehicle.

<sup>4</sup> Colorado law specifies that children younger than 1 and weighing less than 20 pounds must be secured in a rear-facing CRS in a rear seat. Children aged 1-3 and weighing 20-39 pounds must be restrained in either a rear-facing or a forward-facing child safety seat.

<sup>5</sup> Colorado law states that a child’s parent/guardian are responsible for violations of state CRS and child seat belt laws if they are present in the vehicle, otherwise the driver is responsible. Colorado law also describes that any drivers younger than 18 (minors) who operate a vehicle are responsible for any CRS or seat belt violation by an occupant of the vehicle. Minors are subject to 8-24 hours of community service for their first offense and 16-48 hours of community service for any subsequent offense. Minors are also subject to a \$65 maximum fine for their first offense, a \$130 maximum fine for their second offense, and a \$195 fine for any subsequent offenses, with 2 points added to their license for any offense.

## State Laws and Policies for Child Passenger Safety in For-Hire Motor Vehicles

| State,<br>Citation   | CRS Required?                              |  | General CRS Requirements  |  |  |   | Seat belt<br>required for<br>children<br>younger than<br>13 who are not<br>in a CRS? | Exceptions to<br>CRS and seat<br>belt<br>requirements<br>for ridesharing<br>or taxis                                    |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
|  | Ridesharing*                               | Taxis*                                     | Seating<br>position<br>specifications   | Ages, weights,<br>and heights for<br>which any CRS<br>is required                | Penalties for violations   | Means of enhancing<br>compliance  |  |   |
| <b>Connecticut,</b><br>C.G.S.A.<br>§ 14-100a   | Yes, driver<br>responsible.                | Yes, driver<br>responsible.                | Yes, rear-<br>facing and<br>forward-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>front seat<br>restrictions. <sup>6</sup>    | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and<br>weighing less<br>than 60 pounds. | \$50-190 fine for CRS<br>violations. \$50-75 fine for<br>child seat belt violations. <sup>7</sup>  | First or second-time CRS<br>violators must attend a CRS<br>safety course or risk license<br>suspension.   | Yes  | None.   |
| <b>Delaware,</b><br>21 Del. Code<br>§ 4803   | Yes, driver<br>responsible.                | No   | Yes, front<br>seat<br>restrictions. <sup>8</sup>  | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and<br>weighing 65<br>pounds or less.   | \$25 fine for CRS and child<br>seat belt violations.   | CRS awareness campaigns,<br>health insurance credit for seat<br>belt usage. <sup>9</sup>  | Yes  | CRS and child<br>seat belt<br>requirements<br>exempt taxis.   |
| <b>Florida,</b><br>F.S.A. §§<br>316.613,<br>316.614,<br>318.18                           | Yes, parent or<br>guardian<br>responsible. | Yes, parent or<br>guardian<br>responsible. | No  | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 6.  | \$63 fine and 3 points added to<br>license for CRS violations.<br>\$30 fine for child seat belt<br>violations.   | CRS and seat belt awareness<br>campaigns, CRS violation<br>fines and license points can be<br>waived by attending a class.<br>New vehicle license tags must<br>include information about<br>CRS requirements. | Yes  | CRS requirement<br>does not apply to<br>taxi or rideshare<br>drivers, but<br>parents/guardians<br>must still<br>comply. |
| <b>Georgia,</b><br>Ga. Code Ann.<br>§§<br>40-5-57<br>40-8-76,<br>40-8-76.1,<br>51-1-20.2 | Yes, driver<br>responsible.                | No   | Yes, front<br>seat<br>restrictions,<br>exemptions<br>when only lap<br>belts are<br>available. <sup>10</sup> | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and 57" or<br>shorter.                  | \$50 fine and 1 point assigned<br>to license for first-time CRS<br>violation, \$100 fine and 2<br>points assigned to license for<br>subsequent violations. \$25<br>fine to driver for child seat<br>belt violations. | CRS technicians who install<br>or inspect a CRS without a fee<br>are not liable for damages.  | Yes  | CRS requirement<br>exempts taxis.   |

<sup>6</sup> Connecticut law requires children younger than 2 or weighing less than 30 pounds to be secured in a rear-facing CRS. Connecticut law specifies that a child cannot be transported in a rear-facing CRS in the front seat when the vehicle is equipped with a passenger air bag. Connecticut law also requires children age 2-4 or weighing 30-39 pounds to be secured in a rear-facing or forward-facing CRS. Connecticut law specifies that children age 5-7 or weighing 40-59 pounds must be secured in a rear-facing or forward-facing CRS or in a booster seat.

<sup>7</sup> Connecticut law specifies that first-time CRS violations are infractions, second-time violations subject to a \$190 maximum fine, and third or subsequent violations are class A misdemeanors. Law also provides a \$50 fine for seat belt violations, fine increases to \$75 when vehicle operator is under 18 years old. See also C.G.S.A. § 51-164m.

<sup>8</sup> Delaware law prohibits children shorter than 66" and younger than 12 from sitting in a front seat if the seat is behind an active airbag.

<sup>9</sup> Delaware law establishes an awareness campaign to teach the public about the CRS law and also to encourage correct usage of CRS and seat belts. The importance of seat belt usage is also taught in K-12 public schools (§ 122), and foster parents are trained on how to properly use a CRS (201-37.0). Delaware regulation provides an example of a health plan which provides a 5% credit to the insured for using seat belts while in a vehicle (1306-5.0).

<sup>10</sup> Georgia law states that children younger than 8 and weighing 40 pounds or more may be secured in the rear seat by a lap belt only when the vehicle is not equipped with lap and shoulder belts or all lap and shoulder belts are being used to secure other children. Georgia law also requires children younger than 8 to be seated in a rear seat unless all rear seats are occupied by other children or there are no rear seats, in which case the child may be secured in the front seat.

## State Laws and Policies for Child Passenger Safety in For-Hire Motor Vehicles

| State,<br>Citation   | CRS Required?               |                             | General CRS Requirements   |  |   |  | Seat belt<br>required for<br>children<br>younger than<br>13 who are not<br>in a CRS? | Exceptions to<br>CRS and seat<br>belt<br>requirements<br>for ridesharing<br>or taxis  |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|---|
|  | Ridesharing*                | Taxis*                      | Seating<br>position<br>specifications  | Ages, weights,<br>and heights for<br>which any CRS<br>is required  | Penalties for violations  | Means of enhancing<br>compliance   |  |   |
| <b>Hawaii,</b><br>HRS §§<br>235-15,<br>291-11.5,<br>291.11.6,<br>437D-13                           | No                          | No                          | Yes,<br>exemptions<br>when only lap<br>belts are<br>available. <sup>11</sup>                               | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and shorter<br>than 58”.  | \$100-500 fine and mandatory<br>CRS safety course for CRS<br>and child seat belt violations<br>(if child is younger than 8).<br>\$45 fine for all other seat belt<br>violations, additional fees for<br>all CRS or seat belt<br>violations. <sup>12</sup> | \$25 state income tax credit<br>provided for individuals who<br>purchase a CRS. Rental car<br>companies must provide<br>customers information about<br>state CRS laws. | Yes  | CRS and child<br>seat belt<br>requirements<br>exempt<br>commercial<br>vehicles, which<br>include taxis and<br>ridesharing.  |
| <b>Idaho,</b><br>I.C. §§<br>49-672,<br>49-673 <sup>13</sup>  | No                          | No                          | No   | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 7.  | \$84 fine for CRS violations.<br>\$10 fine for child seat belt<br>violations.   | Seat belt usage campaigns and<br>annual reports.   | Yes  | CRS requirement<br>exempts<br>commercial<br>vehicles, which<br>include taxis and<br>ridesharing. <sup>14</sup>  |
| <b>Illinois,</b><br>625 ILCS<br>25/4, 25/4b<br>25/6, 25/6a,<br>5/12-603.1;<br>215 ILCS<br>5/143.32 | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes, rear-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>exemptions<br>when only lap<br>belts are<br>available. <sup>15</sup> | Applies to child<br>passengers of<br>noncommercial<br>vehicles who are<br>younger than 8.<br>Applies to child<br>passengers of all<br>vehicles who are<br>younger than 2,<br>shorter than 40”,<br>and weighing less<br>than 40 pounds. <sup>16</sup> | \$75 fine for 1 <sup>st</sup> CRS violation,<br>\$200 for subsequent<br>violations. \$25 maximum fine<br>to driver for child seat belt<br>violations.   | CRS fine waived if violator<br>learns how to install a CRS<br>from a technician. Auto<br>insurance covers CRS<br>replacement after crash.                              | Yes  | CRS<br>requirements for<br>children age 2-7<br>do not apply to<br>commercial<br>vehicles. Child<br>seat belt<br>requirement<br>exempts backseat<br>taxi passengers. <sup>16</sup> |

<sup>11</sup> Hawaii law specifies that, for children aged 4-7, if the child weighs more than 40 pounds and the vehicle is only equipped with lap belts, the child may be secured using only a lap belt as long as the child is seated in a rear seat.

<sup>12</sup> Hawaii provides up to a \$100 fine for a first-time CRS violation, a \$100-200 fine for a second-time CRS violation, and a \$200-500 fine for a third-time or subsequent CRS violation that occurs within three years of any other CRS violation. Hawaii law also states that, for each CRS violation, the violator is required to attend a CRS safety class and pay a \$50 driver assessment fee. If violators have already attended this class, then they are exempt from this requirement. CRS and seat belt violators must also pay an additional \$10 fine which is transferred to Hawaii’s neurotrauma special fund, and may also be required to pay another \$10 fine which is transferred to Hawaii’s trauma system special fund.

<sup>13</sup> The Idaho Supreme Court sets the infraction penalty schedule. The most recent version, dated July 1, 2020, is available here: [https://isc.idaho.gov/files/IIR9\(b\)-Appendix-A-Infraction-Penalty-Schedule-July-1-2020.pdf](https://isc.idaho.gov/files/IIR9(b)-Appendix-A-Infraction-Penalty-Schedule-July-1-2020.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Idaho law states that the CRS requirement only applies to noncommercial vehicles (§ 49-672), and that ridesharing vehicles are “not a taxicab or for-hire vehicle” (§ 49-3703). Idaho law also states that noncommercial vehicles are vehicles “not held out for hire...or occupation for compensation or profit” (§ 49-123), suggesting that ridesharing and taxis are considered commercial vehicles.

<sup>15</sup> Illinois law states that children younger than 2, shorter than 40”, and weighing less than 40 pounds must be placed in a rear-facing CRS. Illinois law also specifies that, for children younger than 8, if the child weighs more than 40 pounds and the vehicle is only equipped with lap belts, the child may be secured using only a lap belt as long as the child is seated in a rear seat.

<sup>16</sup> Illinois’ CRS law has different age limits for commercial and non-commercial vehicles. Drivers of non-commercial vehicles are required to secure children under the age of 8 in a CRS, but drivers of commercial vehicles (which may including ridesharing and taxis, but not specified) must only secure children in a CRS if the child is younger than 2, shorter than 40”, and lighter than 40 pounds.

## State Laws and Policies for Child Passenger Safety in For-Hire Motor Vehicles

| State,<br>Citation  | CRS Required?  |  | General CRS Requirements  |   |  |  | Seat belt<br>required for<br>children<br>younger than<br>13 who are not<br>in a CRS? | Exceptions to<br>CRS and seat<br>belt<br>requirements<br>for ridesharing<br>or taxis |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
|   | Ridesharing*   | Taxis*   | Seating<br>position<br>specifications   | Ages, weights,<br>and heights for<br>which any CRS<br>is required                                       | Penalties for violations   | Means of enhancing<br>compliance   |  |  |
| <b>Indiana,</b><br>IC §§<br>9-19-11-1,<br>9-19-11-2,<br>9-19-11-3.6<br>9-19-11-3.7<br>34-28-5-4 | No   | No   | Yes,<br>exemptions<br>when only lap<br>belts are<br>available. <sup>17</sup>                              | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8.   | \$25 fine for CRS and child<br>seat belt violations.   | CRS fine waived if violator<br>purchases a CRS after<br>violation and provides proof<br>to the court. CRS fund uses<br>CRS fines to distribute CRS<br>to low-income individuals. | Yes  | CRS and child<br>seat belt<br>requirements<br>exempt taxis and<br>ridesharing.       |
| <b>Iowa,</b><br>I.C.A. §§<br>321.446,<br>805.8A   | Yes,<br>responsibility<br>depends on<br>child's age. <sup>18</sup> | Yes,<br>responsibility<br>depends on<br>child's age. <sup>18</sup> | Yes, rear-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>exemptions<br>when no seat<br>belts are<br>available. <sup>19</sup> | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 6, some<br>children aged 6-<br>17. <sup>20</sup>                 | \$135 fine for CRS and child<br>seat belt violations. <sup>18</sup>  | CRS fine waived if violator<br>purchases a CRS after<br>violation and provides proof<br>to the court. Seat belt<br>educational campaigns.  | Yes  | None.  |
| <b>Kansas,</b><br>K.S.A. §§<br>8-1344,<br>8-1345,<br>8-1347                                     | Yes, driver<br>responsible.  | Yes, driver<br>responsible.  | Yes,<br>exemptions<br>when only lap<br>belts are<br>available. <sup>21</sup>                              | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and<br>weighing less<br>than 80 pounds or<br>shorter than 57". | \$60 fine for CRS and child<br>seat belt violations.   | CRS fine waived if violator<br>purchases a CRS after<br>violation and provides proof<br>to the court. CRS educational<br>campaigns.  | Yes  | None.  |
| <b>Kentucky,</b><br>KRS §§<br>189.125,<br>189.990   | Yes, driver<br>responsible.  | Yes, driver<br>responsible.  | No  | Applies to<br>children shorter<br>than 41" or<br>younger than 8<br>and shorter than<br>58".             | \$50 fine for CRS violations<br>when child is shorter than 41",<br>\$30 fine for all other CRS<br>violations. \$25 fine for child<br>seat belt violations. | CRS fine waived if violator<br>purchases a CRS after<br>violation and provides proof<br>to the court.  | Yes  | None.  |

<sup>17</sup> Indiana law specifies that a child younger than 16 may be secured using only a lap belt if the child weighs more than 40 pounds and the vehicle is not equipped with combination lap and shoulder belts or the vehicle does have combination lap and shoulder belts but all combination lap and shoulder belts are being used by other children younger than 16.

<sup>18</sup> Iowa law describes that if a child passenger is under the age of 14 or is incapable of securing themselves in a seat belt and this child is not properly secured, the driver is responsible for a violation of the CRS law, except if the child is being transported in a taxi or ridesharing vehicle, in which case the child's parent/guardian is responsible for a violation of the CRS law. Otherwise, if this child passenger is age 14 or older, the child passenger is responsible for the violation.

<sup>19</sup> Iowa law specifies that children younger than one year old and weighing less than 20 pounds must be secured in a rear-facing CRS. Iowa law also describes that children seated in a rear seat do not need to be secured if no seat belts are available.

<sup>20</sup> Iowa law requires children ages 6-17 to be secured by either a CRS or a seat belt, depending on the CRS manufacturer's instructions.

<sup>21</sup> Kansas allows children who are age 4-7 and shorter than 57" or weighing less than 80 pounds to be secured by only a lap belt if there are no combination lap and shoulder belts available. Kansas also allows a child to travel unsecured if all seating positions are in use by other children.

## State Laws and Policies for Child Passenger Safety in For-Hire Motor Vehicles

| State,<br>Citation  | CRS Required?               |                             | General CRS Requirements  |   |   |   | Seat belt<br>required for<br>children<br>younger than<br>13 who are not<br>in a CRS? | Exceptions to<br>CRS and seat<br>belt<br>requirements<br>for ridesharing<br>or taxis |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|
|   | Ridesharing*                | Taxis*                      | Seating<br>position<br>specifications   | Ages, weights,<br>and heights for<br>which any CRS<br>is required   | Penalties for violations  | Means of enhancing<br>compliance  |  |  |
| <b>Louisiana,</b><br>LSA-R.S.<br>32:295   | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | No                          | Yes, rear-<br>facing and<br>forward-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>front seat<br>restrictions. <sup>22</sup> | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 9 and to<br>children who do<br>not exceed the<br>height limit of<br>their CRS. | \$100-500 fine for CRS and<br>child seat belt violations, can<br>be primarily enforced. <sup>23</sup>   | CRS educational campaigns.  | Yes  | CRS and child<br>seat belt<br>requirements<br>exempt taxis.                          |
| <b>Maine,</b><br>29-A M.R.S.A.<br>§ 2081  | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes, rear-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>front seat<br>restrictions. <sup>24</sup>                           | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8, shorter<br>than 57", and<br>weighing less<br>than 80 pounds.                | \$50-250 fine for CRS and<br>child seat belt violations. <sup>25</sup>  | None.   | Yes  | None.  |
| <b>Maryland,</b><br>MD Code,<br>Courts and<br>Judicial<br>Proceedings,<br>§ 5-640;<br>Transportation,<br>§§ 16-113,<br>22-412.2 | No                          | No                          | No  | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and shorter<br>than 57".   | \$50 fine for CRS and child<br>seat belt violations, other<br>penalties for drivers with<br>provisional licenses. <sup>26</sup>   | CRS fine waived if violator<br>purchases a CRS after<br>violation and provides proof<br>to the court. CRS technicians<br>who install or inspect a CRS<br>without a fee are not liable for<br>damages. CRS educational<br>campaigns. | Yes  | CRS and child<br>seat belt<br>requirements<br>exempt taxis and<br>ridesharing.       |
| <b>Massachusetts</b><br>M.G.L.A.<br>90 § 1G,<br>90 § 7AA,<br>90 § 13A,<br>6 §<br>15DDDDDD                                       | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | No                          | No  | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and shorter<br>than 58".   | \$25 fine for CRS and child<br>seat belt violations, driver<br>additionally fined \$25 for<br>each child aged 12-15 who<br>violates seat belt law. Seat<br>belt law is secondarily<br>enforced. | Sale, lease, or rental of low-<br>speed motor vehicles requires<br>an accompanying notice<br>which describes the state's<br>CRS and seat belt laws. May<br>is declared Seat belt<br>Awareness Month.                                | Yes  | CRS and child<br>seat belt<br>requirements<br>exempt taxis.                          |

<sup>22</sup> Louisiana law requires children younger than two to be seated in a rear-facing CRS, and requires children at least four years old who have exceeded the weight limit of the rear-facing CRS to be secured in a forward-facing CRS. Louisiana law also specifies that children younger than 13 must sit in the rear seat.

<sup>23</sup> Louisiana provides a \$100 fine for a first-time CRS or child seat belt violation, a \$250-500 fine for a second-time CRS or child seat belt violation, and a \$500 fine plus court costs for a third-time or subsequent CRS or child seat belt violation. Louisiana specifies that the CRS or child seat belt requirements can be primarily enforced when a police officer observes a child who is not in a CRS or seat belt, but the law can only be secondarily enforced if the child is in a CRS that is not age-appropriate. Louisiana provides a \$100 maximum fine to any CRS violators who have secured their child in a CRS that is not age-appropriate.

<sup>24</sup> Maine law requires children younger than two to be seated in a rear-facing CRS, and specifies that children younger than 12 must sit in the rear seat whenever possible.

<sup>25</sup> Maine provides a \$50 fine for a first-time CRS or seat belt violation, a \$125 fine for a second-time CRS or seat belt violation, and a \$250 fine for third-time or subsequent CRS or seat belt violations.

<sup>26</sup> Maryland law specifies that, if a driver with a provisional license drives a vehicle while the driver or any of their passengers are in violation of state CRS or seat belt laws, the state will impose restrictions on that driver's provisional license.

## State Laws and Policies for Child Passenger Safety in For-Hire Motor Vehicles

| State,<br>Citation  | CRS Required?               |                             | General CRS Requirements   |   |  |   | Seat belt<br>required for<br>children<br>younger than<br>13 who are not<br>in a CRS? | Exceptions to<br>CRS and seat<br>belt<br>requirements<br>for ridesharing<br>or taxis |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|--|
|   | Ridesharing*                | Taxis*                      | Seating<br>position<br>specifications  | Ages, weights,<br>and heights for<br>which any CRS<br>is required                                       | Penalties for violations   | Means of enhancing<br>compliance  |  |  |
| <b>Michigan,</b><br>M.C.L.A. §§<br>257.710d,<br>257.710e,<br>257.710g,<br>257.907           | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | No                          | Yes, front<br>seat<br>restrictions. <sup>27</sup>                            | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 4 or children<br>younger than 8<br>and shorter than<br>57”.      | \$10 maximum fine for CRS<br>violations. \$25 fine for child<br>seat belt violations. Seat belts<br>are primarily enforced.  | CRS fine may be waived if<br>violation purchases a CRS after<br>violation and provides proof<br>to the court. CRS grant<br>program provides funds for<br>CRS training, education, and<br>promotion. Secretary of State<br>mandated to promote<br>compliance with seat belt law.   | Yes  | CRS requirement<br>exempts taxis.  |
| <b>Minnesota,</b><br>M.S.A. §§<br>169.685,<br>169.686,<br>357.021,<br>65B.472               | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | No                          | No   | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and shorter<br>than 57”.                                       | \$50 fine for CRS violations.<br>\$25 fine for child seat belt<br>violations with an additional<br>\$75 court surcharge,<br>responsibility varies based on<br>age of violator. <sup>28</sup> | CRS fines are used to<br>distribute CRS to low-income<br>families, school districts, and<br>child care programs, as well<br>as to fund CRS educational<br>programs. CRS fine waived if<br>violation purchases a CRS after<br>violation and provides proof<br>to the court within 14 days.<br>Rental car companies are<br>required to make CRS<br>available to rent “at a<br>reasonable rate.” | Yes  | CRS requirement<br>exempts taxis.  |
| <b>Mississippi,</b><br>Miss. Code<br>Ann.<br>§§ 63-7-301,<br>63-7-309,<br>63-2-1,<br>63-2-7 | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes,<br>exemptions<br>when only lap<br>belts are<br>available. <sup>29</sup> | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 7 and shorter<br>than 57” or<br>weighing less<br>than 65 pounds. | \$25 fine for CRS and child<br>seat belt violations.   | None.   | Yes  | None.  |

<sup>27</sup> Michigan law requires children younger than four to be seated in a rear seat, unless there is no available rear seat, in which case the child may be seated in the front seat, but only if the front seat passenger airbag is disabled for a rear-facing CRS. Michigan also allows a child age 8-15 to travel without being secured by a seat belt in cases where all available seat belts are being used by other children. In these cases, the child must be seated in a rear seat while unsecured, except when the vehicle is a pickup truck that only has front seats, in which case the child may sit in a front seat while unsecured.

<sup>28</sup> Minnesota specifies that if a person aged 15 years old or older commits a seat belt violation, they will be fined \$25. Minnesota also provides a \$25 fine for any driver who commits a seat belt violation, and an additional \$25 fine to the driver for each child passenger younger than 15 who commits a seat belt violation. The driver may be charged the \$75 surcharge associated with this fine only once, regardless of how many seat belt violations are present in the vehicle.

<sup>29</sup> Mississippi law states if there are more than two children seated in the rear seat, all of whom are required to use a booster seat, and there are only two lap and shoulder belts available, then the third child can be secured with only a lap belt.



## State Laws and Policies for Child Passenger Safety in For-Hire Motor Vehicles

| State,<br>Citation  | CRS Required?                        |        | General CRS Requirements  |  |   |   | Seat belt<br>required for<br>children<br>younger than<br>13 who are not<br>in a CRS? | Exceptions to<br>CRS and seat<br>belt<br>requirements<br>for ridesharing<br>or taxis                         |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------|---|--|---|---|--|--|
|   | Ridesharing*                         | Taxis* | Seating<br>position<br>specifications   | Ages, weights,<br>and heights for<br>which any CRS<br>is required  | Penalties for violations  | Means of enhancing<br>compliance  |  |  |
| <b>Missouri,</b><br>V.A.M.S. §§<br>307.178,<br>307.179,<br>387.402  | Yes, driver<br>responsible.          | No     | Yes,<br>exemptions<br>when only lap<br>belts are<br>available. <sup>30</sup>    | Applies to all<br>children under 4<br>and all children<br>who weigh less<br>than 40 pounds.<br>Also applies to<br>children under 8<br>who are shorter<br>than 57” and<br>weigh less than<br>80 pounds. | \$50 maximum fine for CRS<br>violations. \$10 maximum fine<br>for child seat belt violations.   | CRS fine waived if violator<br>purchases a CRS after<br>violation and provides proof<br>to the court. CRS and seat belt<br>compliance campaigns.  | Yes  | CRS and child<br>seat belt<br>requirements<br>exempt public<br>carriers for-hire<br>which includes<br>taxis. |
| <b>Montana,</b><br>MCA §§<br>61-9-420,<br>61-9-421,<br>61-9-423,<br>61-13-103,<br>61-13-104,<br>61-13-105 | Yes,<br>ambiguous<br>responsibility. | No     | No  | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 6 and<br>weighing less<br>than 60 pounds.   | \$100 maximum fine for CRS<br>violations. \$20 fine for child<br>seat belt violations, points<br>cannot be assessed for seat<br>belt violations. CRS and child<br>seat belt requirements for<br>passengers younger than 6 and<br>weighing less than 60 pounds<br>are primarily enforced, all<br>other seat belt requirements<br>are secondarily enforced. | CRS fine waived if violator<br>purchases a CRS after<br>violation and provides proof<br>to the court within 7 days.<br>Seat belt education<br>campaigns.  | Yes  | CRS requirement<br>exempts taxis.  |
| <b>Nebraska,</b><br>Neb, Rev, Stat<br>§§<br>60-6,267,<br>60-6,268;<br>250 NE ADC<br>Ch. 3, § 003          | Yes, driver<br>responsible.          | No     | Yes, rear-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>front seat<br>restrictions. <sup>31</sup> | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8.  | \$25 fine for CRS and child<br>seat belt violations. Child seat<br>belt requirements are<br>secondarily enforced.   | CRS and seat belt educational<br>campaigns. Driver’s safety<br>training programs taken by<br>drivers who commit minor<br>traffic violations must include<br>content about seat belt and<br>CRS usage. | Yes  | CRS and child<br>seat belt<br>requirements<br>exempt taxis.  |

<sup>30</sup> Missouri law states that, if a vehicle’s rear seat is not equipped with a combination lap and shoulder belt, then a child who would otherwise be required to sit in a booster seat may be secured with only a lap belt. Missouri law also describes that, when drivers are transporting children in their immediate family and there are more children than seating positions, it is permissible for children who are not able to be restrained by a CRS to sit unsecured behind the front seat of the vehicle.

<sup>31</sup> Nebraska law requires children younger than two to be secured in a rear-facing CRS until the child exceeds the height or weight limit specified by the CRS manufacturer. Nebraska also specifies that children younger than eight must be secured in a CRS which cannot be in a front seat.



## State Laws and Policies for Child Passenger Safety in For-Hire Motor Vehicles

| State,<br>Citation  | CRS Required?               |                             | General CRS Requirements  |  |   |   | Seat belt<br>required for<br>children<br>younger than<br>13 who are not<br>in a CRS? | Exceptions to<br>CRS and seat<br>belt<br>requirements<br>for ridesharing<br>or taxis        |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|---|
|   | Ridesharing*                | Taxis*                      | Seating<br>position<br>specifications   | Ages, weights,<br>and heights for<br>which any CRS<br>is required              | Penalties for violations  | Means of enhancing<br>compliance  |  |   |
| <b>Nevada,</b><br>N.R.S. §§<br>484B.157,<br>484D.495        | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | No                          | No  | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 6 and<br>weighing 60<br>pounds or less. | \$100-1000 fine, 10-100 hours<br>of community service, or 30-<br>180 day license suspension for<br>CRS violations. \$25 fine or<br>community service assigned<br>to driver for child seat belt<br>violations. <sup>32</sup> | CRS violators must be<br>provided with list of CRS<br>resources at the time of<br>sentencing. If a violator<br>purchases a CRS after a CRS<br>violation and provides proof<br>to the court within 60 days of<br>sentencing, the fines or<br>community service will be<br>waived for a first-time<br>violation or reduced by half for<br>a second-time violator. | Yes  | CRS and child<br>seat belt<br>requirements<br>exempt taxis.                                 |
| <b>New<br/>Hampshire,</b><br>N.H. Rev. Stat.<br>§ 265:107-a | No                          | No                          | No  | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 7 and shorter<br>than 57”.              | \$50 fine for first CRS or child<br>seat belt violations, \$100 fine<br>for subsequent violations.  | None.   | Yes  | CRS requirement<br>exempts for-hire<br>vehicles, which<br>include taxis and<br>ridesharing. |
| <b>New Jersey,</b><br>N.J.S.A. §§<br>39:3-76.2a et<br>seq.  | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes, rear-<br>facing and<br>forward-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>front seat<br>restrictions. <sup>33</sup> | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and shorter<br>than 57”.              | \$50-75 fine for CRS<br>violations. \$20 fine assigned<br>to driver for child seat belt<br>violations, points cannot be<br>assessed for seat belt<br>violations. <sup>34</sup>  | CRS and seat belt educational<br>campaigns.   | Yes  | None.   |

<sup>32</sup> Nevada provides a \$100-500 fine or 10-50 hours of mandatory community service for a first-time CRS violation, a \$500-1000 fine or 50-100 hours of mandatory community service for a second-time CRS violation, and a 30-180 day license suspension for a third-time or subsequent CRS violation. Nevada law explains that seat belt violation penalties for children younger than 18 apply to the driver, but in cases where both the driver and a child are not wearing seat belts, the driver will only be penalized for one seat belt violation.

<sup>33</sup> New Jersey requires children younger than two and weighing less than 30 pounds to be secured in a rear-facing CRS with a five-point harness. New Jersey also requires children younger than four and weighing less than 40 pounds to be secured in a rear-facing CRS with a five-point harness until the child exceeds the height or weight limit specified by the CRS manufacturer, at which point the child is required to be secured in a forward-facing CRS with a five-point harness in a rear seat. New Jersey specifies that children younger than eight and shorter than 57” should be secured in a forward-facing CRS with a five-point harness until the child exceeds the height or weight limit specified by the CRS manufacturer, at which point the child is required to be restrained in a booster seat in a rear seat. In cases where there are no rear seats, New Jersey allows children to be seated in a front seat but prohibits the use of rear-facing CRS in a front seat when the front passenger airbag is not disabled.

<sup>34</sup> New Jersey allows for primary enforcement of front seat belt violations, but only allows secondary enforcement of rear seat violations.

## State Laws and Policies for Child Passenger Safety in For-Hire Motor Vehicles

| State,<br>Citation   | CRS Required?               |                             | General CRS Requirements   |  |  |   | Seat belt<br>required for<br>children<br>younger than<br>13 who are not<br>in a CRS? | Exceptions to<br>CRS and seat<br>belt<br>requirements<br>for ridesharing<br>or taxis  |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|---|
|  | Ridesharing*                | Taxis*                      | Seating<br>position<br>specifications  | Ages, weights,<br>and heights for<br>which any CRS<br>is required                | Penalties for violations   | Means of enhancing<br>compliance  |  |   |
| <b>New Mexico,</b><br>N.M.S.A. §§<br>66-7-369,<br>66-7-373,<br>66-8-116;<br>NM ADC<br>18.19.5,<br>8.21.540 | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes, rear-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>front seat<br>restrictions. <sup>35</sup>  | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 7 or<br>weighing less<br>than 60 pounds.  | \$25 fine and 2 points assigned<br>to license for CRS and child<br>seat belt violations.   | CRS distribution and training<br>programs for newborn<br>children from low-income<br>families. CRS and seat belt<br>educational campaigns.  | Yes  | None.   |
| <b>New York,</b><br>N.Y. Veh. &<br>Traf.<br>§§ 1229-c,<br>1691,<br>375;<br>15 NY ADC<br>131.3              | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | No                          | Yes, rear-<br>facing and<br>forward-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>exemptions<br>when only lap<br>belts are<br>available. <sup>36</sup> | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8.  | \$25-100 fine and 3 points<br>assigned to license for CRS<br>and child seat belt violations.<br>\$50 fine assigned to<br>parent/guardian for child seat<br>belt violations in taxis.     | CRS fine waived if first-time<br>violation and provides proof<br>to the court before their court<br>appearance. Rental car<br>companies required to post<br>information about CRS<br>requirements. Taxis required<br>to post sign encouraging seat<br>belt use.                         | Yes  | CRS requirement<br>exempts taxis.<br>Child seat belt<br>requirement only<br>requires child<br>taxi passengers to<br>wear seat belts if<br>they are age 8 or<br>older. |
| <b>North<br/>Carolina,</b><br>N.C.G.S.A. §§<br>20-137.1,<br>20-137.5                                       | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes, front<br>seat<br>restrictions,<br>exemptions<br>when only lap<br>belts are<br>available. <sup>37</sup>                          | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and<br>weighing less<br>than 80 pounds. | \$25 fine and two points<br>assigned to license for CRS<br>and child seat belt violations.<br>Fine cannot exceed \$25 in<br>cases where more than one<br>child is improperly restrained. | Driver education programs<br>include information<br>encouraging seat belt use.<br>CRS fine waived if violator<br>purchases a CRS after<br>violation and provides proof<br>to the court. CRS technicians<br>who install or inspect a CRS<br>without a fee are not liable for<br>damages. | Yes  | None.   |

<sup>35</sup> New Mexico requires children younger than one to be secured in a rear-facing CRS in a rear seat, except in cases where a rear seat is unavailable, where the child may sit in the front seat only if the passenger air bag is deactivated. New Mexico also includes a description of correct seat belt use for children, which specifies that the lap belt should lay across the child's hips and thighs, not their abdomen, and that the shoulder belt should lay across the child's chest, not their neck.

<sup>36</sup> New York requires children younger than two to be secured in a rear-facing CRS, except when the child exceeds the height or weight limit specified by the CRS manufacturer, at which point the child is required to be secured in a forward-facing CRS. New York also specifies that children younger than 4 and weighing more than 40 pounds or children age 4-7 may be secured with a lap belt when there are no available combination lap and shoulder belts, or all combination lap and shoulder belts are in use by other passengers younger than 16. New York allows children of any age to sit in either the front or rear seat.

<sup>37</sup> North Carolina requires children younger than five and weighing less than 40 pounds to be secured in a rear seat if the vehicle is equipped with an active front seat airbag, unless the child is secured in a CRS that is designed to be used with airbags. North Carolina also allows children younger than eight and weighing between 40 and 80 pounds to be restrained by a lap belt in cases where no combination lap and shoulder belts are available.

## State Laws and Policies for Child Passenger Safety in For-Hire Motor Vehicles

| State,<br>Citation   | CRS Required?                         |                                       | General CRS Requirements   |   |  |  | Seat belt<br>required for<br>children<br>younger than<br>13 who are not<br>in a CRS?                                    | Exceptions to<br>CRS and seat<br>belt<br>requirements<br>for ridesharing<br>or taxis   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|--|
|  | Ridesharing*                          | Taxis*                                | Seating<br>position<br>specifications  | Ages, weights,<br>and heights for<br>which any CRS<br>is required                                       | Penalties for violations   | Means of enhancing<br>compliance   |   |  |
| <b>North Dakota,</b><br>NDCC §§<br>39-06.1-06,<br>39-06.1-10,<br>39-21-41.2,<br>ND ADC<br>75-02-01.2-67            | Yes,<br>responsibility<br>is unclear. | Yes,<br>responsibility<br>is unclear. | No   | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and shorter<br>than 57”.                                       | \$25 fine and one point<br>assigned to license for CRS<br>and child seat belt violations.  | Low-income families can be<br>reimbursed for CRS<br>purchases.   | Yes   | None.  |
| <b>Ohio,</b><br>R.C. §§<br>3942.01,<br>4511.81;<br>OAC 4501-21-<br>06  | Yes, driver<br>responsible.           | No                                    | No   | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and shorter<br>than 57” or<br>weighing less<br>than 40 pounds. | \$25-75 fine for first-time CRS<br>or child seat belt violations,<br>which are minor<br>misdemeanors. Second-time<br>CRS or child seat belt<br>violations are 4 <sup>th</sup> degree<br>misdemeanors. Maximum of<br>one citation in cases where<br>more than one child is<br>improperly restrained. CRS<br>violations for children age 4<br>or older or child seat belt<br>violations are secondarily<br>enforced, implied primary<br>enforcement for all other CRS<br>violations. <sup>38</sup> | CRS violation fines are used<br>to fund a CRS education<br>program and a CRS<br>distribution program for low-<br>income families. Remedial<br>driving course curriculum<br>must include information<br>about seat belts and CRS.   | Yes   | CRS and child<br>seat belt<br>requirements<br>exempt taxis.  |
| <b>Oklahoma,</b><br>47 Okl.<br>St. Ann. §§<br>1011,<br>11-1112,<br>12-417;<br>Okla. Admin.<br>Code 595:55-<br>5-1; | Yes, driver<br>responsible.           | No                                    | Yes, rear-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>exemptions<br>when only lap<br>belts are<br>available. <sup>39</sup> | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and 57” or<br>shorter.   | \$50 fine for CRS violations.<br>\$50 fine for child seat belt<br>violations when child is age 8<br>or is younger than 8 and taller<br>than 57”. \$20 maximum fine<br>for all other child seat belt<br>violations when child is a<br>front seat passenger. No<br>points assigned to license for<br>any CRS or seat belt violation.   | CRS fine reduced to \$15 if<br>first-time violator purchases a<br>CRS after violation and<br>provides proof to the court.<br>CRS technicians who install<br>or inspect a CRS without a fee<br>are not liable for damages.<br>CRS violation fines are used<br>to promote CRS use. | Yes, required<br>for all front seat<br>passengers and<br>children age 8<br>or younger than<br>8 and taller<br>than 57”. | CRS requirement<br>exempts taxis.<br>Child seat belt<br>requirement for<br>children age 8 or<br>younger than 8<br>and taller than<br>57” exempts<br>taxis. |

<sup>38</sup> Ohio law specifies that, when more than one child is not properly restrained in a vehicle at a given time, this is only counted as one CRS violation. Ohio also specifies that seat belt and booster seat violations are secondarily enforced, with implied primary enforcement for all other CRS violations.

<sup>39</sup> Oklahoma requires children younger than two to be secured in a rear-facing CRS unless the child exceeds the height or weight limit specified by the CRS manufacturer. Oklahoma law allows children weighing more than 40 pounds to be secured in a rear seat by a lap belt if there are no available lap and shoulder belts.

## State Laws and Policies for Child Passenger Safety in For-Hire Motor Vehicles

| State,<br>Citation  | CRS Required?                         |  | General CRS Requirements  |  |   |   | Seat belt<br>required for<br>children<br>younger than<br>13 who are not<br>in a CRS? | Exceptions to<br>CRS and seat<br>belt<br>requirements<br>for ridesharing<br>or taxis                           |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
|   | Ridesharing*                          | Taxis*   | Seating<br>position<br>specifications   | Ages, weights,<br>and heights for<br>which any CRS<br>is required                                      | Penalties for violations  | Means of enhancing<br>compliance  |  |  |
| <b>Oregon,</b><br>O.R.S. §§<br>153.019,<br>811.210,<br>811.215  | Yes,<br>responsibility<br>is unclear. | Yes,<br>responsibility<br>is unclear.  | Yes, rear-<br>facing<br>specified. <sup>40</sup>  | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and shorter<br>than 57” or<br>weighing 40<br>pounds or less.  | \$115 fine for CRS and child<br>seat belt violations.   | None.   | Yes  | For-hire drivers<br>(which include<br>ridesharing and<br>taxis) do not need<br>to enforce CRS<br>requirements. |
| <b>Pennsylvania,</b><br>67 Pa. Code<br>§§ 102.102,<br>75 Pa. Code §§<br>4581,<br>4582,<br>4583,<br>4586             | Yes, driver<br>responsible.           | Yes, driver<br>responsible.  | Yes, rear-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>exemptions<br>when no seat<br>belts are<br>available. <sup>41</sup> | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8, shorter<br>than 57”, and<br>weighing 80<br>pounds or less.   | \$75 fine for CRS violations.<br>\$10 fine assigned to driver for<br>child seat belt violations,<br>implied primary enforcement.  | CRS fine waived if violator<br>purchases a CRS after<br>violation and provides proof<br>to the court. CRS fines fund a<br>program that loans CRS to<br>low-income families.<br>Hospitals must provide<br>resources to obtain a CRS to<br>parents of newborn children.<br>CRS educational campaigns.<br>CRS technicians who install<br>or inspect a CRS without a fee<br>are not liable for damages. | Yes  | None.  |
| <b>Rhode Island,</b><br>R.I. Gen Laws<br>§§ 31-22-22,<br>31-41.1-4;<br>815-RICR- 50-<br>10-3.1 et seq,<br>50-10-5.2 | Yes, driver<br>responsible.           | Yes, driver<br>responsible,<br>and driver<br>must refuse<br>service to<br>passengers<br>who refuse to<br>use a CRS<br>when required<br>by law. | Yes, rear-<br>facing and<br>forward-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>front seat<br>restrictions. <sup>42</sup> | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8, shorter<br>than 57”, and<br>weighing less<br>than 80 pounds. | \$85 fine for CRS violations,<br>\$40 fine for not securing child<br>in rear seat when required.<br>\$50-100 fine to taxi drivers<br>for operating taxi with an<br>unsecured child passenger.<br>\$40 fine for child seat belt<br>violations. Implied primary<br>enforcement for CRS and<br>child seat belt laws. <sup>43</sup> | CRS fine waived if violator<br>purchases a CRS after<br>violation and provides proof<br>to the court within 7 days.<br>Seat belt educational<br>campaigns.  | Yes  | None.  |

<sup>40</sup> Oregon requires children younger than two to be secured in a rear-facing CRS. Oregon law also requires children 57” or shorter and weighing more than 40 pounds to be seated in a booster seat, and includes a description of how the seat belt should fit, specifying that the lap belt should lay across the child’s thighs and the shoulder belt should lay across the child’s collarbone.

<sup>41</sup> Pennsylvania requires children younger than two to be secured in a rear-facing CRS unless the child exceeds the height or weight limit specified by the CRS manufacturer. Pennsylvania also specifies that children age 4-7 may be secured without a booster seat or a CRS when there are no available seating positions with seat belts.

<sup>42</sup> Rhode Island requires all children under 8 to be seated in a rear seat, but allows these children to be secured in a front seat if the vehicle has no rear seats or all rear seats are occupied by other children. Rhode Island also requires children younger than two or weighing less than 30 pounds to be secured in a rear-facing CRS, then requires children age two or older or who exceed the height or weight limit of the CRS manufacturer to be secured in a forward-facing CRS.

<sup>43</sup> Rhode Island provides penalties for taxi drivers who operate their vehicle without securing a child in a CRS as required. This penalty is a \$50 fine for first-time offenders, a \$100 fine for second-time offenders, and a mandatory fitness hearing for third-time or subsequent offenders.

## State Laws and Policies for Child Passenger Safety in For-Hire Motor Vehicles

| State,<br>Citation  | CRS Required?               |                             | General CRS Requirements  |  |   |  | Seat belt<br>required for<br>children<br>younger than<br>13 who are not<br>in a CRS? | Exceptions to<br>CRS and seat<br>belt<br>requirements<br>for ridesharing<br>or taxis |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|--|
|   | Ridesharing*                | Taxis*                      | Seating<br>position<br>specifications   | Ages, weights,<br>and heights for<br>which any CRS<br>is required                | Penalties for violations  | Means of enhancing<br>compliance   |  |  |
| <b>South Carolina,</b><br>S.C. Code §§<br>56-5-6410 et<br>seq.,<br>56-5-6520 et<br>seq.,<br>58-23-1610;<br>S.C. Code of<br>Regulations R.<br>38-600 | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | No                          | Yes, rear-<br>facing and<br>forward-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>front seat<br>restrictions. <sup>44</sup> | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and shorter<br>than 57”.                | \$150 maximum fine for CRS<br>violations. \$25 fine assigned<br>to driver for each child seat<br>belt violation, maximum \$50<br>fine for any incident. CRS and<br>seat belts – primary<br>enforcement. | CRS fine waived if violator<br>purchases a CRS after<br>violation and provides proof<br>to the court. Seat belt<br>educational campaigns. CRS<br>must be available for<br>immediate release by wrecker<br>services after a vehicle is<br>towed. Law prohibits seat belt<br>checkpoints (inhibits<br>compliance). | Yes  | CRS requirement<br>exempts taxis.  |
| <b>South Dakota,</b><br>SDCL §§<br>22-6-7,<br>23-1A-22,<br>32-37-1,<br>32-37-1.1,<br>ARSD<br>61:18:02:03  | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | No  | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 5 and<br>weighing less<br>than 40 pounds. | \$25 fine for CRS and child<br>seat belt violations which are<br>petty offenses. No points<br>assessed to license for seat<br>belt violations.  | None.  | Yes  | None.  |

<sup>44</sup> South Carolina requires children younger than 2 to be secured in a rear-facing CRS in a rear seat. South Carolina then requires children who exceed the height or weight limit specified by the rear-facing CRS manufacturer to be secured in a forward-facing CRS in a rear seat. South Carolina specifies that children at least 4 years old who have exceeded the height or weight limit specified by the forward-facing CRS manufacturer must be seated in a belt-positioning booster seat in a rear seat that is secured by a combination lap and shoulder belt. Children at least 8 years old or at least 57” tall may be secured by a combination lap and shoulder belt alone if the lap belt lays across the child’s hips and thighs, the shoulder belt lays across the child’s chest, and, while sitting straight up in their seat, the child’s knees can reach and bend over the edge of their seat. In cases where a vehicle does not have any rear seats, or all rear seats are occupied by other children younger than 8, South Carolina allows a child under 8 to be seated in the front seat if the child is secured in an appropriate CRS as described above.

## State Laws and Policies for Child Passenger Safety in For-Hire Motor Vehicles

| State,<br>Citation  | CRS Required?                             |   | General CRS Requirements  |  |  |   | Seat belt<br>required for<br>children<br>younger than<br>13 who are not<br>in a CRS? | Exceptions to<br>CRS and seat<br>belt<br>requirements<br>for ridesharing<br>or taxis        |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|
|   | Ridesharing*                              | Taxis*                                    | Seating<br>position<br>specifications   | Ages, weights,<br>and heights for<br>which any CRS<br>is required                                      | Penalties for violations   | Means of enhancing<br>compliance  |  |   |
| <b>Tennessee,</b><br>T.C.A. §§<br>40-35-111,<br>55-9-602,<br>55-9-607,<br>55-9-610;<br>Tenn. Comp.<br>R. & Regs.<br>1200-11-04-.01<br>et seq. | Yes, driver<br>responsible. <sup>45</sup> | Yes, driver<br>responsible. <sup>45</sup> | Yes, rear-<br>facing and<br>forward-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>front seat<br>restrictions. <sup>46</sup> | Applies to all<br>children younger<br>than 4, and<br>children aged 4–8<br>who are shorter<br>than 57”. | \$50 maximum fine and/or<br>mandatory CRS class and/or<br>30 days maximum prison time<br>for CRS violations. \$50 fine<br>or court appearance for child<br>seat belt violations,<br>responsibility varies. <sup>47</sup> | Rental car companies are<br>required to make CRS<br>available to rent “at a<br>reasonable rate.” Hospitals<br>must inform new parents<br>about state CRS laws. State<br>health officials must provide<br>information about CRS to<br>obstetrics clinics for<br>prospective parents. CRS and<br>child seat belt fines fund the<br>purchase and distribution of<br>CRS. CRS and seat belt<br>educational campaigns. CRS<br>technicians who install or<br>inspect a CRS without a fee<br>are not liable for damages. | Yes  | None.   |
| <b>Texas,</b><br>TX Transp.<br>Code §§<br>545.412,<br>545.4121,<br>545.413  | No  | No  | No  | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and shorter<br>than 57”.                                      | \$25-250 fine for CRS<br>violations. \$100-200 fine for<br>child seat belt violations.   | CRS and seat belt awareness<br>campaigns, CRS usage taught<br>during driver’s ed, CRS<br>distributed to low-income<br>families. CRS fine waived if<br>violation purchases a CRS after<br>violation. Court may require<br>CRS violators to attend a CRS<br>safety course.  | Yes  | CRS requirement<br>exempts for hire<br>vehicles, which<br>include taxis and<br>ridesharing. |

<sup>45</sup> Tennessee law describes that, in cases where a vehicle is equipped with an automated driving system, the parent or guardian of the child is responsible for compliance with state CRS requirements.

<sup>46</sup> Tennessee requires children younger than 1 and weighing 20 pounds or less to be seated in a rear-facing CRS in a rear seat if available. Tennessee then requires children age 1-3 and weighing more than 20 pounds to be secured in a forward-facing CRS in a rear seat if available. Tennessee additionally specifies that children age 4-8 and shorter than 57” need to be secured in a belt-positioning booster seat in a rear seat if available.

<sup>47</sup> Tennessee law allows CRS violators to be required to attend a court-approved class about safe transportation of children in vehicles. CRS violators may also be required to pay a fee to attend this class. Tennessee also limits child seat belt violation citations to one citation per incident. Tennessee specifies that, when a child is required to be secured by a seat belt, if the driver is not a parent/legal guardian of the child, and the parent/legal guardian is present in the vehicle, then that parent/legal guardian is responsible for securing their child with a seat belt. Otherwise, the driver is responsible for securing the child with a seat belt. However, if the vehicle is operated by an automated driving system, Tennessee specifies that any human(s) who accompany the child is/are responsible for ensuring the child is secured by a seat belt. If no human accompanies the child in the autonomous vehicle, then the child’s parent/legal guardian is responsible for securing the child with a seat belt.

## State Laws and Policies for Child Passenger Safety in For-Hire Motor Vehicles

| State,<br>Citation  | CRS Required?               |                             | General CRS Requirements  |  |   |   | Seat belt<br>required for<br>children<br>younger than<br>13 who are not<br>in a CRS? | Exceptions to<br>CRS and seat<br>belt<br>requirements<br>for ridesharing<br>or taxis |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|--|
|   | Ridesharing*                | Taxis*                      | Seating<br>position<br>specifications   | Ages, weights,<br>and heights for<br>which any CRS<br>is required  | Penalties for violations  | Means of enhancing<br>compliance  |  |  |
| <b>Utah,</b><br>U.C.A. §§<br>41-6a-1803,<br>41-6a-1804,<br>41-6a-1805;<br>U.A.C. R909-<br>19-15                         | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | No  | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and shorter<br>than 57".  | \$45 maximum fine for CRS<br>and child seat belt violations,<br>no points assessed to license<br>for either violation. Multiple<br>CRS or child seat belt<br>violations during any one<br>incident are only considered<br>as one violation. | CRS fine waived if violator<br>purchases a CRS after<br>violation and provides proof<br>to the court. CRS are<br>considered life-essential<br>property and must be given to<br>a vehicle owner after their<br>vehicle is towed, even when<br>the vehicle owner has not paid<br>for towing services. | Yes  | None.  |
| <b>Vermont,</b><br>23 V.S.A. §§<br>750,<br>1258   | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | No                          | Yes, rear-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>front seat<br>restrictions. <sup>48</sup>                           | Children under 8<br>or weighing less<br>than 20 pounds<br>must be in a CRS.<br>Children aged 8–<br>17 must be<br>secured in a CRS<br>or seat belt. | \$25-100 fine for CRS and<br>child seat belt violations. <sup>49</sup>  | None.   | Yes  | CRS and child<br>seat belt<br>requirements<br>exempt taxis.                          |
| <b>Virginia,</b><br>VA Code Ann.<br>§§ 8.01-226.5,<br>46.2-1095,<br>46.2-1096,<br>46.2-1097,<br>46.2-1098,<br>46.2-2000 | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | No                          | Yes, rear-<br>facing and<br>forward-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>front seat<br>restrictions. <sup>50</sup> | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8.  | \$50-500 fine for CRS and<br>child seat belt violations, no<br>points assigned to license for<br>either violation. \$20 fine for<br>failure to carry CRS or seat<br>belt medical exemption. <sup>51</sup>                                   | CRS and child seat belt fines<br>fund the purchase and<br>distribution of CRS to low-<br>income families. CRS<br>technicians who install or<br>inspect a CRS without a fee<br>are not liable for damages.<br>CRS fines waived or<br>suspended if violator could<br>not afford to purchase a CRS.    | Yes  | CRS and child<br>seat belt<br>requirements<br>exempt taxis.                          |

<sup>48</sup> Vermont law requires children younger than 1 or weighing less than 20 pounds to be secured in a rear-facing CRS and prohibits these children from being seated in front of an active airbag.

<sup>49</sup> Vermont law provides a \$25 fine for a first-time CRS or child seat belt violation, a \$50 fine for a second-time CRS or child seat belt violation, and a \$100 fine for a third-time or subsequent CRS or child seat belt violation.

<sup>50</sup> Virginia law requires children to be secured in a rear-facing CRS until the child is at least two years old or the child meets the minimum height and weight specified by the forward-facing CRS manufacturer, at which point the child may be secured in a forward-facing CRS. Virginia also requires children younger than 8 to be seated in a rear seat, unless there are no available rear seats, in which case the child can be seated in a front seat only if the airbag is deactivated.

<sup>51</sup> Virginia law provides a \$50 fine for a first-time CRS or child seat belt violation, and a \$500 fine for a second-time or subsequent CRS or child seat belt violation. Virginia law allows physicians to exempt children from Virginia's CRS and child seat belt requirements for medical reasons, and requires parents to carry a signed physician statement while transporting any exempted children. Virginia law provides a \$20 fine to parents who fail to carry this statement while transporting an unsecured exempted child.



## State Laws and Policies for Child Passenger Safety in For-Hire Motor Vehicles

| State,<br>Citation  | CRS Required?               |        | General CRS Requirements  |  |  |  | Seat belt<br>required for<br>children<br>younger than<br>13 who are not<br>in a CRS? | Exceptions to<br>CRS and seat<br>belt<br>requirements<br>for ridesharing<br>or taxis        |
|---|-----------------------------|--------|---|--|--|--|--|---|
|   | Ridesharing*                | Taxis* | Seating<br>position<br>specifications   | Ages, weights,<br>and heights for<br>which any CRS<br>is required    | Penalties for violations   | Means of enhancing<br>compliance   |  |   |
| <b>Washington,</b><br>RCWA §§<br>3.62.090<br>43.59.170,<br>46.61.687,<br>46.61.6871,<br>46.61.688,<br>46.61.6885<br>46.63.110<br>46.64.055 <sup>52</sup>                          | No                          | No     | Yes, rear-<br>facing and<br>forward-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>front seat<br>restrictions,<br>exemptions<br>when only lap<br>belts are<br>available. <sup>53</sup> | Applies to all<br>children younger<br>than 4 or shorter<br>than 57”. | \$139 fine for CRS and child<br>seat belt violations. <sup>54</sup>  | CRS fine waived if a first-<br>time violator purchases a CRS<br>and provides proof to the<br>court within 7 days of<br>violation. CRS technicians<br>who install or inspect a CRS<br>without a fee are not liable for<br>damages. CRS and seat belt<br>educational programs.   | Yes  | CRS requirement<br>exempts for-hire<br>vehicles, which<br>include taxis and<br>ridesharing. |
| <b>West Virginia,</b><br>W. Va. Code<br>§§ 17-29-2,<br>17C-15-46,<br>17C-15-49;<br>W. Va. Code<br>St. R. § 126-<br>44H Appendix;<br>W. Va. Code<br>St. R. § 151-1<br>Attachment A | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | No     | Yes,<br>exemptions<br>when there<br>are not<br>enough seat<br>belts. <sup>55</sup>  | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8 and shorter<br>than 57”.    | \$10-20 fine for CRS<br>violations. \$25 fine for child<br>seat belt violations, no points<br>assessed to license for seat<br>belt violations. | Seat belt educational program.<br>Importance of CRS and seat<br>belt usage taught during<br>driver’s ed. State public<br>employee insurance plan<br>includes a surcharge for ER<br>services due to failure to use a<br>seat belt. Medical damages<br>can be reduced if plaintiff was<br>not wearing a seat belt. <sup>56</sup> | Yes  | CRS requirement<br>exempts taxis.   |

<sup>52</sup> Washington State Courts sets the traffic infraction penalty schedule. The most recent version, dated July 1, 2015, is available here: [https://www.courts.wa.gov/court\\_rules/pdf/CLJRLJ6.2.pdf](https://www.courts.wa.gov/court_rules/pdf/CLJRLJ6.2.pdf)

<sup>53</sup> Washington law requires children younger than 2 to be secured in a rear-facing CRS until the child exceeds the height or weight limits specified by the CRS manufacturer. Washington law specifies that children younger than 4 who are not secured in a rear-facing CRS must be secured in a forward-facing CRS with a harness until the child exceeds the height or weight limits specified by the CRS manufacturer. Washington law describes that children younger than 13 should be seated in a rear seat whenever possible, and exempts children who are required to be secured in a booster seat from this booster seat requirement when there is only a lap belt available.

<sup>54</sup> Washington State Courts provide a \$48 base fine for any violation not specifically listed on their traffic infraction penalty schedule, which includes CRS and seat belt violations. RCWA § 3.62.090 provides an additional statutory fee equal to the base fine multiplied by 1.05, and RCWA § 46.63.110 also provides an additional statutory fee of \$40 for each traffic infraction.

<sup>55</sup> West Virginia law specifies that, in cases when there are more passengers than seat belts, if all seat belts are being used to secure passengers, the driver is not in violation of the CRS law for any unsecured passenger(s).

<sup>56</sup> West Virginia law describes that plaintiffs seeking medical damages for a motor vehicle injury may have their award reduced by a maximum of 5% if the court finds that the plaintiff was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the injury and that the failure to wear a seat belt means that the plaintiff did not attempt to minimize any potential injuries from a car crash.

## State Laws and Policies for Child Passenger Safety in For-Hire Motor Vehicles

| State,<br>Citation  | CRS Required?               |                             | General CRS Requirements  |  |   |   | Seat belt<br>required for<br>children<br>younger than<br>13 who are not<br>in a CRS? | Exceptions to<br>CRS and seat<br>belt<br>requirements<br>for ridesharing<br>or taxis |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|--|
|   | Ridesharing*                | Taxis*                      | Seating<br>position<br>specifications   | Ages, weights,<br>and heights for<br>which any CRS<br>is required                                  | Penalties for violations  | Means of enhancing<br>compliance  |  |  |
| <b>Wisconsin,</b><br>W.S.A. §§<br>347.48,<br>347.50                               | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | No                          | Yes, rear-<br>facing and<br>forward-<br>facing<br>specified,<br>front seat<br>restrictions. <sup>57</sup> | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 8, 57" or<br>shorter, and<br>weighing 80<br>pounds or less. | \$30-75 fine for CRS<br>violations when child is<br>younger than 4.<br>\$10-200 fine for CRS<br>violations when child is age 4-<br>7. \$10 fine assigned to driver<br>for child seat belt violations. <sup>58</sup>   | CRS fine waived if violator<br>purchases a CRS within 30<br>days of violation and provides<br>proof to the court (only if<br>violator has not violated the<br>CRS law within the past 3<br>years). Seat belt educational<br>program. Damages can be<br>reduced if plaintiffs were not<br>wearing their seat belt. <sup>59</sup>   | Yes  | CRS and child<br>seat belt<br>requirements<br>exempt taxis.                          |
| <b>Wyoming,</b><br>W.S. §§<br>31-5-1302,<br>31-5-1303,<br>31-5-1304,<br>31-5-1402 | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes, driver<br>responsible. | Yes, front<br>seat<br>restrictions. <sup>60</sup>   | Applies to<br>children younger<br>than 9.  | \$50-100 fine for CRS<br>violations. \$25 fine assigned<br>to driver for child seat belt<br>violations when child is<br>younger than 12. \$10 fine<br>assigned to child for child seat<br>belt violations when child is<br>age 12. Seat belt violations –<br>secondary enforcement. <sup>61</sup> | CRS fine waived if violator<br>purchases a CRS after<br>violation and provides proof<br>to the court. If a driver is<br>pulled over for an unrelated<br>motor vehicle or traffic<br>offense and the driver and all<br>passengers are in compliance<br>with the state seat belt law,<br>the driver will receive a \$10<br>credit for any fine issued for<br>the offense. | Yes  | None.  |

\* In cases where the CRS requirements applied to both ridesharing and taxis, these requirements were identical except where otherwise indicated.

<sup>57</sup> Wisconsin law requires children younger than 1 or weighing less than 20 pounds to be secured in a rear-facing CRS in a rear seat if a rear seat is available. For children who do not fall in these age and weight ranges, Wisconsin law specifies that children younger than 4 or weighing less than 40 pounds need to be secured in a forward-facing CRS in a rear seat if a rear seat is available, and children who do not fall in this age and weight ranges but who are younger than 8, weighing 80 pounds or less, and 57" tall or shorter may be secured as described previously in a forward-facing CRS or in a booster seat. Wisconsin describes that children younger than 8 but weighing more than 80 pounds or taller than 57" may be secured by a seat belt.

<sup>58</sup> Wisconsin provides a \$30-75 fine for any CRS violation involving a child younger than 4 years old. Wisconsin also provides a \$10-25 fine for a first-time CRS violation involving a child age 4-7, and a \$25-200 fine for a second-time or subsequent CRS violation within 3 years involving a child age 4-7.

<sup>59</sup> Wisconsin law describes that plaintiffs seeking damages for motor vehicle injuries or property damage may have their award reduced by a maximum of 15% if the court finds that the plaintiff or other vehicle occupants were not wearing their seat belt at the time of the crash.

<sup>60</sup> Wyoming prohibits children younger than 9 from being seated in the front seat unless there are no available rear seats. Wyoming also prohibits the use of a rear-facing CRS in front of an active airbag. Wyoming law specifies that children otherwise required to be secured by a CRS may be secured by a combination lap and shoulder belt if the seat belt fits the child properly and would not be dangerous to the child during a crash.

<sup>61</sup> Wyoming provides a \$50 fine for a first-time CRS violation, and provides a \$100 fine for a second-time or subsequent CRS violation. Wyoming also provides a \$25 fine to the driver for failing to secure a child younger than 12 in a seat belt (if that child is not already secured in a CRS), and a fine of \$10 to any passenger age 12 or older who fails to secure themselves with a seat belt.