

Child Passenger Safety

AAP Policy

In March 2011, the American Academy of Pediatrics released its revised Child Passenger Safety recommendations. The statement increased the minimum age that children should ride rear-facing in infant and convertible seats from 1 to 2 years and the age that children should remain in the rear seat from 12 to 13 years. Though intended to educate parents on the best practices to protect their children from death or injury while riding within a vehicle, these recommendations also provide guidance to state lawmakers seeking to enact child passenger safety legislation that best protects children. The following provisions should be included within child passenger safety legislation:

- Infants and toddlers should ride facing the rear of the vehicle until at least 2 years of age. States may choose to adopt age 1 requirements immediately, and phase in a requirement to ride rear-facing until age 2 within 2 to 4 years, with provision for educating parents in the interim about the benefits of riding rear-facing as long as possible.
- Young children should ride in car safety seats with a harness until at least age 4, with guidance educating parents and caregivers about the benefits of riding in a seat with a 5-point harness up to the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer.
- School-aged children should ride in belt positioning booster seats until at least age 8 or until the seat belt fits correctly, as described by the AAP and NHTSA.
- Children should ride in the rear-seat until age 13.
- Seat belt laws should apply to all vehicle occupants and should be subject to primary enforcement.

2012 State Action

In 2012, **Arizona** enacted a booster seat law leaving Florida and **South Dakota** as the only states without a booster seat requirement. **California** enacted legislation requiring that hospitals and birthing centers provide parents of newborns information about child passenger safety upon discharge. Also this year, AAP chapter advocates saw states legislators take up the new AAP child passenger safety legislation for the first time. **Maryland** and **Tennessee** both considered bills that would require children ride rear-facing in cars until at least age 2. **Maryland** also considered a requirement that would prohibit children younger than 13 from riding in the front seat of a car unless no rear seat was available.

AAP Resources

AAP Policy: *Child Passenger Safety (Policy Statement)*
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2011/03/21/peds.2011-0213.full.pdf+html>

Child Passenger Safety (Technical Report)
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/127/4/e1050.full>

Advocacy *AAP Chapter Advocacy Resources*
Resources: www.aap.org/stgovaffairs (MyAAP login required)

STATE
GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS 

American Academy
of Pediatrics



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Child Passenger Safety

STATE	REAR-FACING REQUIRED UNTIL AT LEAST AGE 1	BOOSTER SEATS REQUIRED TO AT LEAST AGE 8	REAR SEAT UNTIL AT LEAST AGE 11	PRIMARY SEATBELT ENFORCEMENT ALL AGES/ALL SEATS
Alabama	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Alaska	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arizona		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Arkansas				
California		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Colorado	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Connecticut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Delaware		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dist. of Columbia		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Florida				
Georgia		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Hawaii		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Idaho				
Illinois		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Indiana		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Iowa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kansas		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Kentucky				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maine		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maryland		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Massachusetts		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Michigan		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi				
Missouri		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Montana				
Nebraska				
Nevada				
New Hampshire				
New Jersey		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
New Mexico	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New York		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
North Carolina		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
North Dakota				
Ohio		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Oklahoma				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Rhode Island		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota				
Tennessee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Utah		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Virginia		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Washington		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Wisconsin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
TOTAL	12	32	3	20

Source: AAP Division of State Government Affairs and the Governors Highway Safety Association

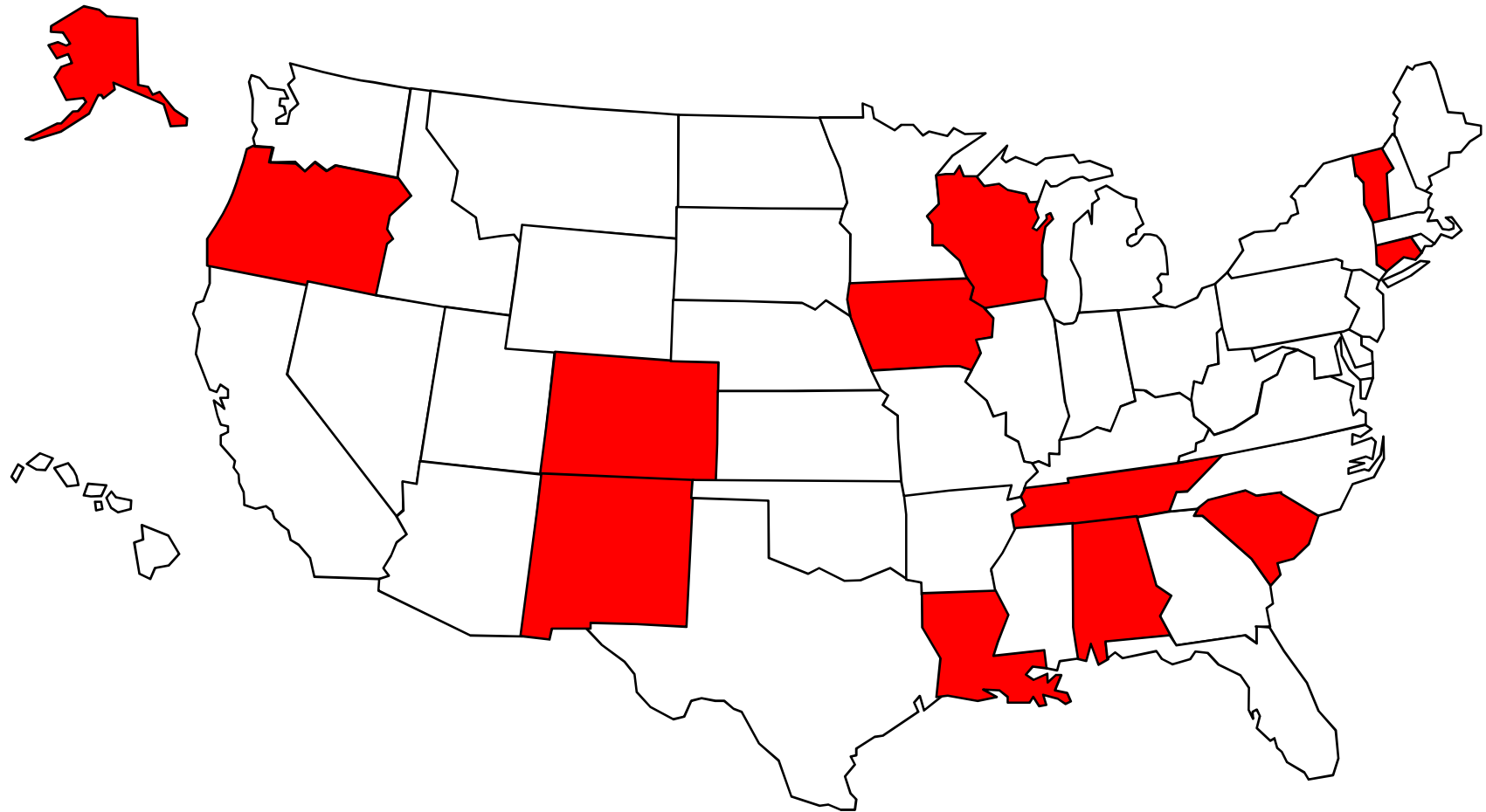


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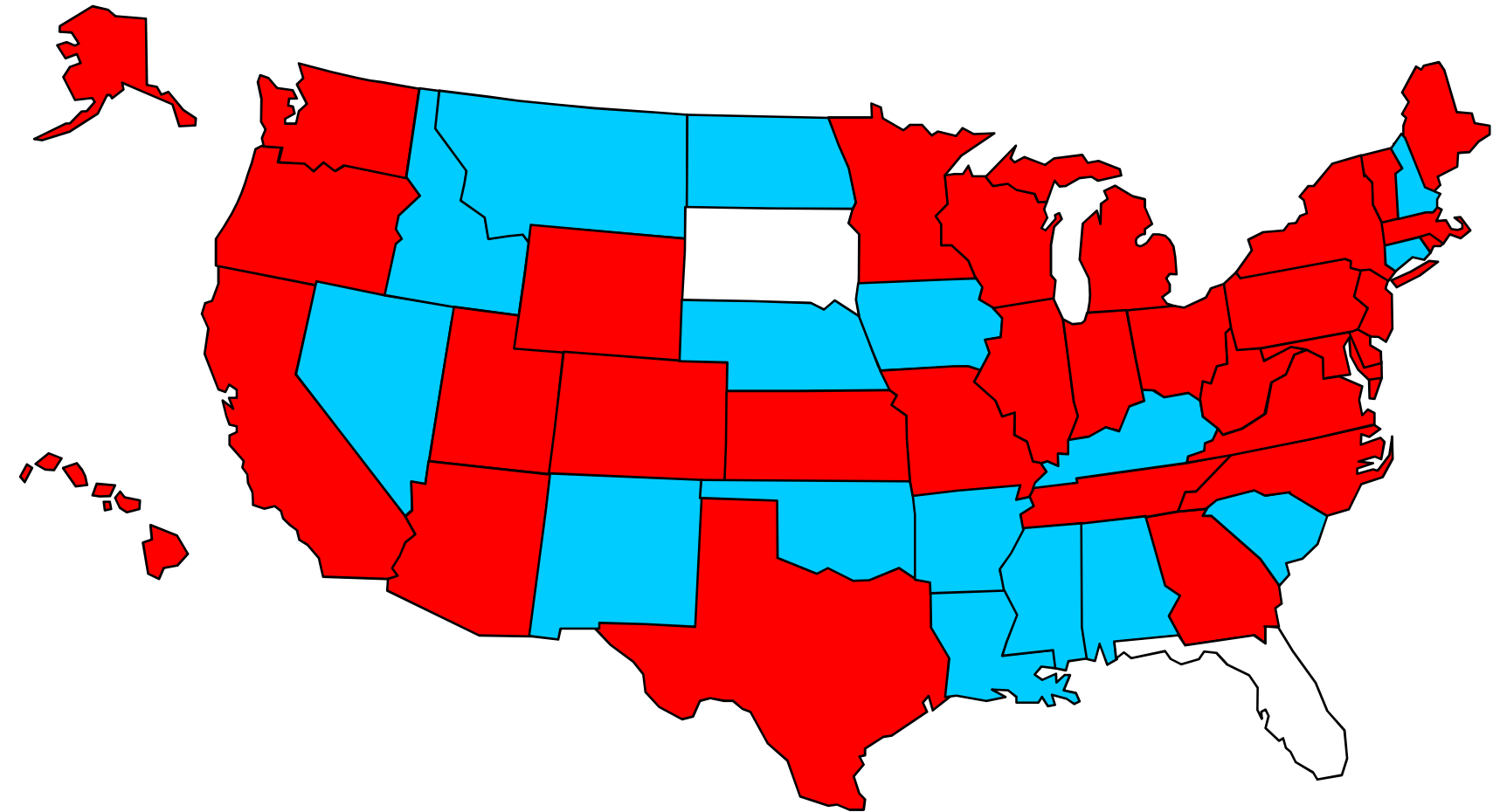
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REAR-FACING INFANT SEATS



 = States requiring infants ride rear-facing until at least age 1

BOOSTER SEATS



-  = States with booster seat laws until age 8
-  = States with booster seat laws until age 6