

## Towed Motor Vehicle Brake Requirements By State

This table documents statutory requirements pertaining to brakes on a motor vehicle in tow behind a motorhome or other vehicle in non-commercial applications. Information was compiled from an analysis of each state's published statutes pertaining to motor vehicle brakes. Note that this is a layman's interpretation of the statutes, not expert opinion. It is presented for information only. Comments regarding errors in this data are welcome. [Email Link](#)

### Summary:

- Five states; Alaska, Florida, Nevada, North Carolina and Wisconsin, have a verified brake requirement based on the towed vehicle weight.
- Most states have a general performance requirement based on stopping distance from 20 mph. Those apply to all vehicles or to combinations of vehicles.
- Three states; Hawaii, North Dakota and District of Columbia, have statutes that are not available online and therefore are not tabulated.

| State                | Brakes Req'd | Weight (lbs) | Statutes / Section         | Other Reqmts | Performance Reqmt | Links                                   | Notes     |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------|
| Alabama              | No           | -            | 35-5-212                   | None         | n/a               | <a href="#">Alabama Statutes</a>        |           |
| Alaska               | Yes          | 5,000        | 13 AAC 04.205              | Performance  | 40 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Alaska Statutes</a>         |           |
| Arizona              | No           | -            | 28-952                     | Performance  | 40 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Arizona Statutes</a>        |           |
| Arkansas             | No           | -            | 27-37-501, 502             | Performance  | 50 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Arkansas Statutes</a>       | Enter St  |
| California           | No (Note 1)  | -            | 26458 c 3                  | Performance  | 50 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">California Statutes</a>     |           |
| Colorado             | No           | -            | 42-4-223                   | Performance  | 40 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Colorado Statutes</a>       |           |
| Connecticut          | No           | -            | 14-80h                     | None         | n/a               | <a href="#">Connecticut Statutes</a>    |           |
| Delaware             | No           | -            | 4303                       | Performance  | 30 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Delaware Statutes</a>       |           |
| District of Columbia | Unknown      | -            | -                          | -            | -                 | -                                       | Not ava   |
| Florida              | Yes          | 3,000        | 316.261                    | None         | n/a               | <a href="#">Florida Statutes</a>        |           |
| Georgia              | No           | -            | 40-8-52                    | Performance  | 40 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Georgia Statutes</a>        |           |
| Hawaii               | Unknown      | -            | -                          | -            | -                 | -                                       | Not ava   |
| Idaho                | No           | -            | 49-933                     | Performance  | 50 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Idaho Statutes</a>          |           |
| Illinois             | No           | -            | 625 ILCS 5/Ch. 12 Art. III | Performance  | 30 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Illinois Statutes</a>       |           |
| Indiana              | No           | -            | IC 9-19-3                  | Performance  | 50 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Indiana Statutes</a>        |           |
| Iowa                 | No           | -            | 321.430                    | Performance  | 45 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Iowa Statutes</a>           |           |
| Kansas               | No           | -            | 8-1734                     | Performance  | 40 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Kansas Statutes</a>         |           |
| Kentucky             | No           | -            | 189.090                    | Performance  | 40 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Kentucky Statutes</a>       | PDF Doc   |
| Louisiana            | No           | -            | RS 32:341                  | None         | n/a               | <a href="#">Louisiana Statutes</a>      |           |
| Maine                | No           | -            | 1902                       | Performance  | 30 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Maine Statutes</a>          |           |
| Maryland             | No           | -            | 22-301                     | Performance  | 50 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Maryland Statutes</a>       |           |
| Massachusetts        | No           | -            | Chapter 90: Section 7      | None         | n/a               | <a href="#">Massachusetts Statutes</a>  |           |
| Michigan             | No           | -            | 257.705                    | Performance  | 40 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Michigan Statutes</a>       |           |
| Minnesota            | No           | -            | 169.67                     | Performance  | 50 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Minnesota Statutes</a>      |           |
| Mississippi          | No           | -            | 63-7-51                    | Performance  | 30 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Mississippi Statutes</a>    |           |
| Missouri             | No           | -            | 307.170.3                  | None         | n/a               | <a href="#">Missouri Statutes</a>       |           |
| Montana              | No           | -            | 61-9-301 thru 321          | Performance  | 35 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Montana Statutes</a>        |           |
| Nebraska             | No           | -            | 60-6,244                   | Performance  | 35 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Nebraska Statutes</a>       |           |
| Nevada               | Yes          | 1,500        | NRS 484.593, 9             | None         | n/a               | <a href="#">Nevada Statutes</a>         |           |
| New Hampshire        | No           | -            | 226:27                     | Performance  | 30 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">New Hampshire Statutes</a>  |           |
| New Jersey           | No           | -            | 39:3-67                    | Performance  | 45 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">New Jersey Statutes</a>     | Enter "b  |
| New Mexico           | No           | -            | 66-3-840                   | Performance  | 30 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">New Mexico Statutes</a>     |           |
| New York             | No           | -            | Article 9 375              | None         | n/a               | <a href="#">New York Statutes</a>       | Type "V   |
| North Carolina       | Yes          | 4,000        | 20.124 f                   | None         | n/a               | <a href="#">North Carolina Statutes</a> |           |
| North Dakota         | Unknown      | -            | -                          | -            | -                 | -                                       | Not ava   |
| Ohio                 | No           | -            | 4315.20                    | Performance  | 40 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Ohio Statutes</a>           |           |
| Oklahoma             | No           | -            | Title 47 Section 12-301    | Performance  | 25 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Oklahoma Statutes</a>       |           |
| Oregon               | No           | -            | 815.125                    | Performance  | 35 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Oregon Statutes</a>         |           |
| Pennsylvania         | No           | -            | Chapter 175                | None         | n/a               | <a href="#">Pennsylvania Statutes</a>   |           |
| Rhode Island         | No           | -            | 31-23-4                    | Performance  | 40 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Rhode Island Statutes</a>   |           |
| South Carolina       | No           | -            | 56-5-4850 (h)              | Performance  | 50 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">South Carolina Statutes</a> |           |
| South Dakota         | No           | -            | 32-18-10                   | Performance  | 50 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">South Dakota Statutes</a>   |           |
| Tennessee            | No           | -            | 55-9-204, 205              | Performance  | 30 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Tennessee Statutes</a>      | Click Fo  |
| Texas                | No           | -            | 547.401                    | Performance  | 50 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Texas Statutes</a>          | Scroll to |
| Utah                 | No           | -            | 41-6a-1623                 | Performance  | 40 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Utah Statutes</a>           |           |
| Vermont              | No           | -            | Title 23 1307, 1308        | Performance  | 30 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Vermont Statutes</a>        |           |
| Virginia             | No           | -            | 42.2-1066, 1067            | Performance  | 40 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Virginia Statutes</a>       |           |
| Washington           | No           | -            | 46.37.340, 46.37.351       | Performance  | 50 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Washington Statutes</a>     |           |
| West Virginia        | No           | -            | 17C-15-31                  | Performance  | 40 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">West Virginia Statutes</a>  |           |

7/31/2014

Toad Brake Requirements

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|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Wisconsin                                         | Yes                                                                                                                                                                 | Note 2 | 347.35, 347.36 | Performance | 50 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Wisconsin Statutes</a> | Scroll to |
| Wyoming                                           | No                                                                                                                                                                  | -      | 31-5-950       | Performance | 40 ft from 20 mph | <a href="#">Wyoming Statutes</a>   |           |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                     |        |                |             |                   |                                    |           |
| Note 1                                            | California: Towed motor vehicles are exempt from weight-based brake requirements. Must comply with the performance requirement.                                     |        |                |             |                   |                                    |           |
| Note 2.                                           | Wisconsin: 347.35 (3) (am) Brakes not required if toad weight is less than 40% of towing vehicle weight and the combined vehicles meet the performance requirement. |        |                |             |                   |                                    |           |
| <b>Links To Reference Sources</b>                 |                                                                                                                                                                     |        |                |             |                   |                                    |           |
| <a href="#">DMV.org Online Data Base</a>          |                                                                                                                                                                     |        |                |             |                   |                                    |           |
| <a href="#">State Vehicle Statutes Summary</a>    |                                                                                                                                                                     |        |                |             |                   |                                    |           |
| <a href="#">FindLaw Vehicle Statutes Database</a> |                                                                                                                                                                     |        |                |             |                   |                                    |           |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                     |        |                |             |                   |                                    |           |
|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                     |        |                |             |                   |                                    |           |