



OLR RESEARCH REPORT

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AUTO LIABILITY INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS IN OTHER STATES

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You asked which states require people to purchase (1) auto liability insurance, (2) uninsured motorist coverage, and (3) underinsured motorist coverage. In states that require auto liability insurance, you want to know the minimum levels of insurance required.

Information for this report comes from the Insurance Information Institute's June 2013 report titled *Compulsory Auto/Uninsured Motorists* (http://www.iii.org/issues_updates/compulsory-auto-uninsured-motorists.html).

SUMMARY

Auto liability insurance is mandatory in 49 states and the District of Columbia. New Hampshire, the only state that does not require auto liability insurance, requires drivers to show that they are able to provide sufficient funds in the case of an at-fault accident (i.e., financial responsibility). Liability insurance generally pays another driver's medical, vehicle repair, and other costs when the policyholder is the at-fault driver in an accident. It covers (1) bodily injury (BI) per person and per accident and (2) property damage (PD). (Table 1 below lists the minimum liability limits required in each jurisdiction.)

Twenty two jurisdictions require uninsured motorist coverage (UM): Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, South

Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. UM compensates policyholders when another driver who is at fault for the accident (1) has no auto liability insurance or (2) is a hit-and-run driver.

Fourteen states require underinsured motorist coverage (UIM): Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin. UIM compensates a policyholder when the at-fault driver has an insufficient amount of auto liability insurance.

For a more detailed look at Connecticut's auto insurance requirements, see OLR Research Report [2008-R-0493](#).

Table 1: Auto Insurance Requirements by State, June 2013

State	Insurance Required	Minimum Liability Limits (in thousands of \$)
Alabama	Bodily injury and property damage liability (BI & PD)	25/50/25. The first number refers to BI liability limit for one person injured in an accident (\$25,000). The second number refers to BI liability limit for all persons injured in an accident (\$50,000). The third number refers to the PD liability limit (\$25,000).
Alaska	BI & PD	50/100/25
Arizona	BI & PD	15/30/10
Arkansas	BI & PD, Personal Injury Protection (PIP) (PIP is mandatory in no-fault states and generally covers medical, rehabilitation, loss of earnings, and funeral expenses.)	25/50/25

Table 1 (continued)

State	Insurance Required	Minimum Liability Limits (in thousands of \$)
California	BI & PD	15/30/5 (Low-cost policy limits for low-income drivers in the California Automobile Assigned Risk Plan are 10/20/3.)
Colorado	BI & PD	25/50/15
Connecticut	BI & PD, UM, UIM	20/40/10
Delaware	BI & PD, PIP	15/30/10
District of Columbia	BI & PD, UM	25/50/10
Florida	BI & PD, PIP	10/20/10
Georgia	BI & PD	25/50/25
Hawaii	BI & PD, PIP	20/40/10
Idaho	BI & PD	25/50/15
Illinois	BI & PD, UM	20/40/15
Indiana	BI & PD	25/50/10
Iowa	BI & PD	20/40/15
Kansas	BI & PD, PIP, UM	25/50/10
Kentucky	BI & PD, PIP	25/50/10
Louisiana	BI & PD	15/30/25
Maine	BI & PD, UM, UIM	50/100/25
Maryland	BI & PD, PIP, UM, UIM	30/60/15
Massachusetts	BI & PD, PIP, UM, UIM	20/40/5
Michigan	BI & PD, PIP	20/40/10
Minnesota	BI & PD, PIP, UM, UIM	30/60/10
Mississippi	BI & PD	25/50/25
Missouri	BI & PD, UM	25/50/10
Montana	BI & PD	25/50/10
Nebraska	BI & PD, UM, UIM	25/50/25
Nevada	BI & PD	15/30/10
New Hampshire	Financial Responsibility only (liability insurance is not mandatory), UM	25/50/25
New Jersey	BI & PD, PIP, UM, UIM	15/30/5 (Optional basic policy limits are 10/10/5 without UM and UIM.)
New Mexico	BI & PD	25/50/10

Table 1 (continued)

State	Insurance Required	Minimum Liability Limits (in thousands of \$)
New York	BI & PD, PIP, UM	25/50/10 (In addition, policyholders must have 50/100 for wrongful death coverage.)
North Carolina	BI & PD, UM, UIM	30/60/25
North Dakota	BI & PD, PIP, UM, UIM	25/50/25
Ohio	BI & PD	12.5/25/7.5 (Effective December 22, 2013, Ohio's limits increase to 25/50/25.)
Oklahoma	BI & PD	25/50/25
Oregon	BI & PD, PIP, UM, UIM	25/50/20
Pennsylvania	BI & PD, PIP	15/30/5
Rhode Island	BI & PD	25/50/25
South Carolina	BI & PD, UM	25/50/25
South Dakota	BI & PD, UM, UIM	25/50/25
Tennessee	BI & PD	25/50/15
Texas	BI & PD	30/60/25
Utah	BI & PD, PIP	25/65/15
Vermont	BI & PD, UM, UIM	25/50/10
Virginia	BI & PD*, UM, UIM (*compulsory to buy insurance or pay an Uninsured Motorists Vehicle fee to the Department of Motor Vehicles)	25/50/20
Washington	BI & PD	25/50/10
West Virginia	BI & PD, UM	20/40/10
Wisconsin	BI & PD, UM, UIM	25/50/10
Wyoming	BI & PD	25/50/20

Source: Insurance Information Institute

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