

Auto Liability Insurance Requirements in Other States

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Issue

This report identifies the states that require people to purchase (1) auto liability insurance, (2) uninsured motorist coverage, and (3) underinsured motorist coverage. For the states that require auto liability insurance, it lists the minimum levels of insurance required by law. (Information for this report comes from the Insurance Information Institute's September 2016 report, [Compulsory Auto/Uninsured Motorists](#).) (This report updates and replaces [OLR Report 2013-R-0258](#).)

Auto Insurance Requirements

Forty-nine states and the District of Columbia require drivers to have auto liability insurance. New Hampshire is the only state that does not require it. Instead, New Hampshire requires drivers to show that they are able to provide sufficient funds in the case of an at-fault accident (i.e., proof of financial responsibility) (see [OLR Report 2013-R-0274](#)).

Auto 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). (Appendix 1 below lists the minimum liability limits required in each jurisdiction.)

Twenty-one jurisdictions require uninsured motorist coverage (UM): Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, 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.

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

Appendix 1: Auto Insurance Requirements by State

State	Insurance Required	Minimum Auto 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
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, PIP, UM	25/50/10
Florida	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, UIM	25/50/20
Indiana	BI & PD	25/50/10
Iowa	BI & PD	20/40/15
Kansas	BI & PD, PIP	25/50/25
Kentucky	BI & PD, PIP	25/50/10

Appendix 1 (continued)

State	Insurance Required	Minimum Auto Liability Limits (in thousands of \$)
Louisiana	BI & PD	15/30/25
Maine	BI & PD, UM	50/100/25
Maryland	BI & PD, PIP, UM, UIM	30/60/15
Massachusetts	BI & PD, PIP, UM	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	25/50/20
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
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	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	25/50/25
Wisconsin	BI & PD, UM	25/50/10
Wyoming	BI & PD	25/50/20

Source: Insurance Information Institute