



# Virginia

**1 of 28**

states and Puerto Rico where the Highway Safety Office is the lead agency for motorcycle safety.

**1 of 20**

states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico that has a universal helmet law.

**1 of 21**

states and Puerto Rico that includes motorcycles in highway engineering issues.

Year	Motor Vehicle Fatalities	Motor Vehicle Registrations	Motorcycle Fatalities	Motorcycle Registrations
2004	922	4,091,334 (7,037,698)	57 (56)	75,457 (123,548)
2005	947 (946)	4,066,886 (7,246,706)	69 (68)	77,854 (136,978)
2006	963 (961)	4,031,355 (7,386,061)	69	81,172 (151,914)

The data in parentheses was provided by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

- In Virginia, motorcycle fatalities represented 6 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities but 2 percent of registered vehicles in 2004; 7 percent of fatalities but 2 percent of registered vehicles in 2005; and 7 percent of fatalities but 2 percent of registered vehicles in 2006.

#### GENERAL

- The Virginia HSO is the lead agency for motorcycle safety.
- Virginia has an active motorcycle advisory committee. Committee members are appointed by the Governor and include one member of the House of Delegates and the Senate of Virginia as well as a representative from each of the following state agencies: Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, Virginia Economic Development Partnership, DMV, Department of State Police, DOT and the Virginia Touri<sup>SM</sup> Authority. The committee also includes representatives from local law enforcement agencies, the Board of Transportation Safety and sixteen citizen members who are also appointed by the Governor. The Secretaries of Commerce and Trade, Public Safety and Transportation serve as ex officio members
- Motorcycle crashes are a priority crash problem in Virginia.
- Virginia has a motorcycle safety plan, and motorcycle safety is included in the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

#### RIDER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- The Virginia HSO is responsible for rider education and training.
- Basic, advanced and sidecar/trike training courses are offered in the state.
- Rider training is not mandatory.
- Training capacity is an issue in Virginia. Wait times for classes range from eight to 12 weeks.
- Virginia does not have a *Sharing the Road* program. However, Virginia has a program called *Motorcycle 411- Info You Can Live With*. Two radio and television advertisements have been developed for the program. Print materials are also distributed at motorcycle events around the state.



- Information on sharing the road with motorcycles is included in the state's license manual and in the curriculum for new drivers.
- Conspicuity information is provided in the *Motorcycle 411* campaign materials.

#### **LICENSING**

- The minimum age to receive a motorcycle license is 16 and three months.
- Vision, knowledge and skills tests are required of applicants; however, the skills and knowledge tests are waived for people who successfully complete rider education courses.
- The training courses offered in the state, the Virginia DMV website, and motorcycle and impaired driving awareness programs conducted at high schools all include information on the importance of proper licensing.

#### **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

- Virginia has a universal helmet law.
- In 2006, two of the 69 riders killed in crashes weren't wearing helmets.
- Information on the benefits of helmet use is provided in the state's training programs.

#### **IMPAIRED MOTORCYCLING**

- Information on the dangers of impaired motorcycling is provided in the state's rider training programs.

#### **HIGHWAY ENGINEERING**

- The Virginia DOT works with the motorcycle community to make work zones and roads more motorcycle-friendly. For example, when steel plates are used to cover holes in road ways, they must be secured to the pavement and marked with reflective materials on the four corners.

#### **RESOURCES AND FUNDING**

- User fees are used to cover the costs of the motorcycle rider education program in Virginia.
- Virginia received a 2010 Motorcyclist Safety Grant. The funds were used to recruit and train coaches.
- \$140,000, \$135,564 and \$168,605 of federal funds were obligated to motorcycle safety in 2004, 2005 and 2006, respectively.