



MOTORCYCLE LAWS IN TENNESSEE

HELMETS ARE REQUIRED

Approved helmets:
DOT (FMVSS 218 Certified), CSPM, SNELL, SIRC

WINDSHIELD, GOGGLES, GLASSES

Windshield, goggles, impact resistant glasses, or face shield are required.

RED LIGHT EXCEPTION

May proceed through light after stopping completely at intersections controlled by detection devices. If a crash occurs, the motorcycle going through the light is presumed at fault.

DISPLAY OF REGISTRATION

Must be attached to the rear, securely fastened in horizontal position, and no less than 12 inches from the ground. If a motorcycle is equipped with vertically mounted license plate brackets, its license plate shall be mounted with the top of the license plate fastened along the right vertical edge. No tinted materials may be placed over a license plate.

LAWS CONTINUED ON REVERSE SIDE ➡

HEADLIGHTS

One or a maximum of two headlights, and must remain on at all times. Modulating headlights are legal.
No blue lights can be displayed in the front.

TAIL LIGHTS / BRAKE LIGHTS

Flashing system is legal. Must flash for five seconds then change to continuous light and must be red in color.

SEAT FOR OPERATOR AND PASSENGER REQUIRED

No person (child) can ride in a position that interferes with controls, i.e., in front of the operator. No minimum age for child to ride as a passenger. Must be able to sit on seat provided with feet touching stock foot pegs/boards.

H.O.V. LANES

Motorcycles are high occupancy vehicles and may use H.O.V. lane.

NO LANE SHARING OR LANE SPLITTING

Entitled to full use of lane. May not overtake and pass in lane occupied by another vehicle. Two motorcycles may ride abreast. May not operate between adjacent lanes or rows/split lanes.



Check out the motorcycle routes in Tennessee at:

[TNTRAFFICSAFETY.ORG/MOTORCYCLE](https://tntrafficsafety.org/motorcycle)



TENNESSEE HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE

For specific info and/or exceptions, see the TDOS Driver Handbook. Motorcycle equipment laws: T.C.A 55-9-302, 304, 402, and 403. Driving laws: T.C.A 55-8-110, 164, 182, and 188. Registration law: T.C.A 55-4-110.