



## Low Beam vs High Beam Statutes by State

By

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You are in your 2009 Chevrolet Malibu in a forested area just outside Seattle, Washington. It is nearly midnight on May 7. There is a full moon overhead. You are operating on low beam. Suddenly, you notice something is not right up ahead. You switch to high beam and find three people standing in the road taking light measurements. Luckily, even though the speed limit is 55 mph, you were stopped because you were participating in the test. Would you have been able to stop if you had been traveling on low beam at 55 mph?



*Figure 1 Low beam*



*Figure 2 High beam*

I have long known that the huge majority of drivers do not drive on high beam even when they should. I have reached that opinion based on my personal observations over 60 years of driving, examination of headlight lamp filaments during vehicle inspections and reading published studies, one of which found that of the miles where the test drivers could have been on high beam, they only chose to for 3% of those miles.<sup>1</sup>

Until taking on this study, I had concluded that the great majority of the United States motor vehicle statutes only addressed when drivers should not use high beams and rarely encourage their use. It seemed to me that

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<sup>1</sup> Real World Use of High-beam Headlamps, UMTRI-2006-11, Mefford, Flannagan & Bogard

using high beams was considered a sin worth of severe castigation and enmity.

When I first came to Indiana, I was driving a rural road at night with two children and two other adults in the car. We were not following any cars, nor were there any approaching, even for miles. One of the children noticed the blue light on the dashboard and said, "Your brights are on." I responded, "I know." We continued for a couple of more miles and she again said, "Your brights are on." I said again, "I know." That initiated a discussion about why you shouldn't drive with your high beam lights on. Even the adults were of that opinion. I then asked, "Then, why do cars have high beams? To warn other drivers that their brights are on?" Silence. And, I fear, resentment.

Over the past several years, I have spent a lot of time thinking about whether my observations have been correct and what I can do to convince motorists to use their high beam lamps. I have made it a personal mission to tell drivers whenever I can, "Drive on high beam until you can't!" In fact, I am currently in a case where my main opinion was that the crash would not have happened if the driver had not been "outdriving the vehicle's headlights."

The benefit of using high beams is huge as shown by the two above photographs. Low beam headlamp patterns only project 0.3 foot-candles onto the pavement about 235 feet ahead of the typical car and high beam lamps put that amount of light onto a target at a minimum of 516 feet and at a maximum of 967 feet.<sup>2</sup>

What does the law in Washington say about which headlight distribution pattern you should be using? What if this was in Indiana? What about New York? Or Minnesota?

In the interest of documenting learning whether any states mandate use of high beams in any circumstances, I did some initial research and discovered a site that has (it would appear) looked into vehicle lighting laws and published some of the information<sup>3</sup>. The site claims to be current as of December 22, 2015 although there may be some differences. But, rather

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<sup>2</sup> Studies have documented that fine detail color vision is not well stimulated until about 0.3 foot-candles (3 lux) fall on the scene.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.yourmechanic.com/article/headlight-use-laws-for-all-50-states>

than depend on the accuracy of their work, I decided to search for the headlight laws for every state in the Union and in the District of Columbia myself.

The following table is organized by state and contains only information mostly about when high beams should not be used. But, you will see that the majority of states do have statutes that direct the driver to "...use a distribution of light, or...directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle."

I hope you find this information useful. I would also suggest that many, even nearly all, night pedestrian strike cases not involving dart-outs should consider whether the involved driver would have been able to avoid the collision had they been on high beam. I am only aware of two cases that we have ever worked where the vehicle was on high beam and struck something lying or standing in the road ahead. We have worked thousands of ped strike crashes. Ergo, nearly in all those ped strike cases, the driver was on low beam, many at 70 miles per hour on interstate highways. That is not to say that road profile and other factors might not have prevented the driver from seeing what was there. But, the great likelihood as shown in the photos above is that the collision would have been avoided had the driver been on high beam. Why have them if you're not going to use them?

There are relatively rare times, of course, where fog, dust, snow and smoke reduce visibility and high beams don't help. Rather, in those circumstances, they hinder. The main solution for those situations is to slow down. But, otherwise,

Drive on high beam until you can't!

<b>STATE</b>	<b>LAWS</b>
Alabama	<p>The driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when approaching traffic at 500 feet distance and when following vehicles within 200 feet.</p> <p><a href="http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/alcode/32/5/9/2/32-5-242">http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/alcode/32/5/9/2/32-5-242</a></p>
Alaska	<p>The driver shall use a high distribution of light or composite beam, directed at a height and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of 450 feet in advance of the vehicle for all load conditions,</p> <p>A vehicle may not use high beam headlights within 500 feet of an oncoming vehicle or 300 feet of a vehicle in front of you.</p> <p><a href="http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/aac.asp#13.04.020">http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/aac.asp#13.04.020</a></p>
Arkansas	<p>The driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when approaching traffic is within 500 feet.</p> <p>High beams must also be dimmed when following within 200 feet of another vehicle.</p> <p><a href="http://law.justia.com/codes/arkansas/2015/title-27/subtitle-3/chapter-36/subchapter-2/section-27-36-211/">http://law.justia.com/codes/arkansas/2015/title-27/subtitle-3/chapter-36/subchapter-2/section-27-36-211/</a></p>
California	<p>The driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity</p>

	<p>to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle,</p> <p>There shall be an uppermost distribution of light, or composite beam, so aimed and of such intensity as to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 350 feet ahead.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when approaching oncoming traffic within 500 feet.</p> <p><a href="http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=veh&amp;group=24001-25000&amp;file=24400-24411">http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=veh&amp;group=24001-25000&amp;file=24400-24411</a></p>
Colorado	<p>The driver shall use a distribution of light or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>Use brights when driving in rural areas and on open highways away from urban and metropolitan areas.</p> <p>Dim within 500 feet of oncoming vehicles.</p> <p>Dim when within 200 feet of a vehicle ahead of you.</p> <p>Use low beams in fog at night.</p> <p><a href="https://www.codot.gov/business/rules/documents/2010_Model_Traffic_Code.pdf">https://www.codot.gov/business/rules/documents/2010_Model_Traffic_Code.pdf</a></p>
Connecticut	<p>The driver must use a light distribution, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to show people and vehicles at a safe distance ahead.</p> <p>High beam lights must be turned down when a vehicle approaches to within 500 feet.</p> <p>If the vehicle is approaching another vehicle from behind, the lights must be turned on low beam when the vehicle is within 300 feet</p>

	<a href="https://www.cga.ct.gov/2006/rpt/2006-R-0198.htm">https://www.cga.ct.gov/2006/rpt/2006-R-0198.htm</a>
Delaware	<p>The driver shall use a distribution of light or composite beam directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams shall be aimed and of such intensity as to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 350 ahead for all conditions of loading.</p> <p>High beams must be switched off a minimum of 500 feet when meeting another vehicle or 200 feet when approaching from behind.</p> <p><a href="http://delcode.delaware.gov/title21/c043/sc02/index.shtml">http://delcode.delaware.gov/title21/c043/sc02/index.shtml</a></p>
Dist. of Col.	<p>High beams shall aimed and of such intensity as to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 350 feet ahead.</p> <p>No high beam usage on the highways of the District.</p> <p><a href="http://www.dcregs.dc.gov/Gateway/RuleHome.aspx?RuleNumber=18-715">http://www.dcregs.dc.gov/Gateway/RuleHome.aspx?RuleNumber=18-715</a></p>
Florida	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or shoulder adjacent thereto, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>There shall be an uppermost distribution of light, or composite beam, so aimed and of such intensity as to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 450 feet ahead.</p> <p>You must turn high beams off when approaching within 500 feet of oncoming traffic or 300 feet when approaching the vehicle from behind.</p>

	<p>Vehicles with lamps that only reveal persons and objects at 100 feet may only be operated at speed less than 20 miles per hour.</p> <p><a href="http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?mode=View%20Statutes&amp;SubMenu=1&amp;App_mode=Display_Statute&amp;Search_String=intensity&amp;URL=0300-0399/0316/Sections/0316.238.html">http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?mode=View%20Statutes&amp;SubMenu=1&amp;App_mode=Display_Statute&amp;Search_String=intensity&amp;URL=0300-0399/0316/Sections/0316.238.html</a></p>
Georgia	<p>The driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when 500 feet from an oncoming vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when 200 feet behind a leading vehicle.</p> <p><a href="http://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2010/title-40/chapter-8/article-1/part-2/40-8-31/">http://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2010/title-40/chapter-8/article-1/part-2/40-8-31/</a></p>
Hawaii	<p>Two headlamps of equal intensity required during darkness hours.</p> <p>No reference to high beam/low beams discoverable.</p> <p><a href="http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/histatutes/1/17/291/II/291-25">http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/histatutes/1/17/291/II/291-25</a></p>
Idaho	<p>The driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>There shall be an uppermost distribution of light, or composite beam, so aimed and of an intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least three hundred fifty (350) feet ahead.</p> <p>There shall be a lowermost distribution of light, or composite beam so aimed and of sufficient intensity to</p>

	<p>reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least one hundred (100) feet ahead.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when approaching oncoming traffic within 500 feet.</p> <p>High beams must also be dimmed when approaching from behind to within 200 feet.</p> <p><a href="https://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title49/T49CH9SECT49-923.htm">https://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title49/T49CH9SECT49-923.htm</a></p>
Illinois	<p>High beams must be dimmed at least 500 feet from an oncoming vehicle or 300 feet when approaching from behind.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs4.asp?DocName=062500050HCh%2E+12&amp;ActID=1815&amp;ChapterID=49&amp;SeqStart=134500000&amp;SeqEnd=145900000">http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs4.asp?DocName=062500050HCh%2E+12&amp;ActID=1815&amp;ChapterID=49&amp;SeqStart=134500000&amp;SeqEnd=145900000</a></p>
Indiana	<p>The person who drives a motor vehicle shall use a distribution of light or composite beam directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be turned down when vehicle is within 500 feet of oncoming traffic or when it is within 200 feet when approaching from behind.</p> <p><a href="http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/incode/9/21/7/9-21-7-5">http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/incode/9/21/7/9-21-7-5</a></p>
Iowa	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or shoulder, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when approaching oncoming traffic within 1000 feet.</p> <p>High beams must also be dimmed when approaching from behind to within 400 feet.</p>

	<a href="https://coolice.legis.iowa.gov/Cool-ICE/default.asp?category=billinfo&amp;service=iowaCode&amp;input=321.415">https://coolice.legis.iowa.gov/Cool-ICE/default.asp?category=billinfo&amp;service=iowaCode&amp;input=321.415</a>
<p>Kansas</p>	<p>When a motor vehicle is being operated on a highway or shoulder adjacent thereto, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>You must switch to low beams when you are within 500 feet of an approaching vehicle. If you are approaching from behind, you must switch off your high beams when you are within 300 feet.</p> <p><a href="http://kslegislature.org/li_2012/b2011_12/statute/008_000_0000_chapter/008_017_0000_article/008_017_0025_section/008_017_0025_k/">http://kslegislature.org/li_2012/b2011_12/statute/008_000_0000_chapter/008_017_0000_article/008_017_0025_section/008_017_0025 k/</a></p>
<p>Kentucky</p>	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or shoulder adjacent thereto, the driver shall use a distribution of light or composite beam directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be so aimed and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 350 feet ahead.</p> <p>Low beams must be so aimed and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least one hundred (100) feet ahead.</p> <p>Whenever the driver of a vehicle follows another vehicle within three hundred (300) feet to the rear, except when engaged in the act of overtaking and passing, such driver shall use low beams.</p>

	<p><a href="https://coanet.iso.com/statutes40/State_Resources/Kentucky/Vehicle_Conditions/KY_Vehicle_Conditions.htm">https://coanet.iso.com/statutes40/State_Resources/Kentucky/Vehicle_Conditions/KY_Vehicle_Conditions.htm</a></p>
Louisiana	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or shoulder adjacent thereto during the times specified in R.S. 32:301, the driver shall use a distribution of light or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when approaching within 500 feet of oncoming traffic.</p> <p>High beams must also be dimmed when following behind another vehicle within 200 feet.</p> <p><a href="http://legis.la.gov/legis/Law.aspx?d=88264">http://legis.la.gov/legis/Law.aspx?d=88264</a></p>
Maine	<p>Headlights must be of sufficient power and so adjusted and operated as to enable the operator to proceed with safety under all ordinary conditions of highway and weather.</p> <p><a href="http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/29-A/title29-Asec1904.html">http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/29-A/title29-Asec1904.html</a></p> <p>When a vehicle equipped with multiple-beam road lights approaches an oncoming vehicle within 500 feet or follows a vehicle within 300 feet, the operator shall dim the headlights or switch to a low beam and shall turn off a fog light allowed by section 1909-A, unless the fog light was installed by the vehicle manufacturer at the time the vehicle was originally manufactured.</p> <p><a href="http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/29-A/title29-Asec2067.html">http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/29-A/title29-Asec2067.html</a></p>
Maryland	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle is being driven on a roadway or adjacent shoulder, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons</p>

	<p>and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be switched off when traveling within 500 feet of oncoming traffic.</p> <p>High beams must also be switched to low beams when following a vehicle within 300 feet.</p> <p><a href="http://law.justia.com/codes/maryland/2005/gtr/22-223.html">http://law.justia.com/codes/maryland/2005/gtr/22-223.html</a></p>
Massachusetts	<p>Only use high beams in dark areas where you cannot see the road surface ahead.</p> <p>Low beams are required when you are within 500 feet of approaching traffic.</p> <p>High beams must be switched to low beams when following vehicles within 200 feet.</p> <p><a href="https://www.massrmv.com/rmv/dmanual/chapter_3.pdf">https://www.massrmv.com/rmv/dmanual/chapter_3.pdf</a></p>
Michigan	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a highway or shoulder adjacent thereto...the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle..."</p> <p>High beams must be switched off whenever oncoming traffic is within 1000 feet or you are approaching a vehicle from behind at 200 feet.</p> <p><a href="http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(xibzmuuawrp2g0x0jjzate00))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&amp;objectName=mcl-257-700">http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(xibzmuuawrp2g0x0jjzate00))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&amp;objectName=mcl-257-700</a></p>
Minnesota	<p>When a motor vehicle is being operated on a highway or shoulder adjacent thereto during the times when lighted lamps on vehicles are required in this chapter, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in</p>

	<p>advance of the vehicle, subject to the following requirements and limitations.</p> <p>When the driver of a vehicle approaches a vehicle within 1,000 feet, such driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, so aimed that the glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of the oncoming driver.</p> <p>When the driver of a vehicle follows another vehicle within 200 feet to the rear, except when engaged in the act of overtaking and passing, such driver shall use a distribution of light permissible under this chapter other than the uppermost distribution of light specified in section.</p> <p><a href="https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=169.61">https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=169.61</a></p>
Mississippi	<p>The driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be switched off when oncoming traffic is within 500 feet.</p> <p><a href="http://law.justia.com/codes/mississippi/2013/title-63/chapter-7/general-provisions/section-63-7-33">http://law.justia.com/codes/mississippi/2013/title-63/chapter-7/general-provisions/section-63-7-33</a></p>
Missouri	<p>Every person driving a motor vehicle equipped with multiple-beam road lighting equipment, during the times when lighted lamps are required, shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>Whenever the driver of a vehicle approaches an oncoming vehicle within 500 feet, or is within 300 feet to the rear of another vehicle traveling in the same direction, the driver shall use a distribution of light or composite beam so aimed that the glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of the other driver.</p>

	<p><a href="http://www.moga.mo.gov/mostatutes/stathtml/30700000701.html">http://www.moga.mo.gov/mostatutes/stathtml/30700000701.html</a></p>
Montana	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or shoulder adjacent to a roadway...the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, capable of revealing persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when approaching within 1000 feet of oncoming traffic.</p> <p>High beams must also be dimmed when following within 500 feet behind another vehicle.</p> <p><a href="http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/61/9/61-9-221.htm">http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/61/9/61-9-221.htm</a></p>
Nebraska	<p>The headlights of motor vehicles will produce a driving light sufficient to render clearly discernible a person two hundred feet ahead, but the headlights shall not project a glaring or dazzling light to persons in front of such headlight.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when approaching oncoming traffic.</p> <p>High beams must also be dimmed when within 200 feet of a vehicle from behind.</p> <p><a href="http://uniweb.legislature.ne.gov/laws/statutes.php?state=60-6,221">http://uniweb.legislature.ne.gov/laws/statutes.php?state=60-6,221</a></p>
Nevada	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on the traveled portion of the highway, or shoulder adjacent thereto, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be switched to low beams when approaching within 500 feet of oncoming traffic.</p>

	<p>High beams must also be switched to low beams when following within 300 feet of a vehicle in front of you.</p> <p><a href="http://law.justia.com/codes/nevada/2013/chapter-484d/statute-484d.215">http://law.justia.com/codes/nevada/2013/chapter-484d/statute-484d.215</a></p>
New Hampshire	<p>The headlamp shall throw sufficient light ahead within the travelled portion of the way to make clearly visible all vehicles, persons, or substantial objects within a distance of 200 feet, except that the headlamps of motorcycles shall be sufficient if they make clearly visible objects within a distance of 150 feet.</p> <p><a href="http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/xxi/266/266-31.htm">http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/xxi/266/266-31.htm</a></p> <p>The driver of any vehicle upon approaching, overtaking or while following within a distance of approximately 150 feet of another vehicle on a way during the period from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise shall dim his headlights.</p> <p><a href="http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/xxi/265/265-114.htm">http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/xxi/265/265-114.htm</a></p>
New Jersey	<p>Every person driving a motor vehicle equipped with multiple-beam road lighting equipment, during the times when lighted lamps are required, shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>Whenever the driver of a vehicle approaches an oncoming vehicle within 500 feet such driver shall use a distribution of light or composite beam so aimed that the glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of the oncoming driver.</p> <p>Distance not defined when following another vehicle.</p> <p><a href="http://law.justia.com/codes/new-jersey/2015/title-39/section-39-3-60">http://law.justia.com/codes/new-jersey/2015/title-39/section-39-3-60</a></p>

<p>New Mexico</p>	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or shoulder adjacent thereto, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>Switch from high beams to low beams when approaching oncoming traffic within 500 feet.</p> <p>Switch from high beams to low beams when you are within 200 feet of another vehicle from behind.</p> <p><a href="http://law.justia.com/codes/new-mexico/2006/nmrc/jd_66-3-831-17faf.html">http://law.justia.com/codes/new-mexico/2006/nmrc/jd_66-3-831-17faf.html</a></p>
<p>New York</p>	<p>High beams must be switched off when you are within 500 feet of oncoming traffic or within 200 feet when you are approaching from behind.</p> <p><a href="http://www.safeny.ny.gov/equi-vt.htm">http://www.safeny.ny.gov/equi-vt.htm</a></p> <p>Dim your high beam lights for pedestrians who are approaching your vehicle.</p> <p><a href="https://dmv.ny.gov/about-dmv/chapter-10-special-driving-conditions">https://dmv.ny.gov/about-dmv/chapter-10-special-driving-conditions</a></p>
<p>North Carolina</p>	<p>A driver shall so control the headlights of the vehicle operated by him by shifting, depressing, deflecting, tilting, or dimming the headlight beams in such manner as shall not project a glaring or dazzling light to persons within a distance of 500 feet in front of such headlamp.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/ByChapter/Chapter_20.html">http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/ByChapter/Chapter_20.html</a></p>
<p>North Dakota</p>	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or shoulder adjacent thereto, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal</p>

	<p>persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when approaching oncoming traffic within 500 feet.</p> <p>High beams must also be turned to low beams when following within 300 feet of another vehicle.</p> <p><a href="http://www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/t39c21.pdf#nameddest=39-21-03">http://www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/t39c21.pdf#nameddest=39-21-03`</a></p>
Ohio	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or shoulder adjacent, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons, vehicles, and substantial objects at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle, subject to the following requirements.</p> <p>Whenever the driver of a vehicle approaches an oncoming vehicle, such driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, so aimed that the glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of the oncoming driver.</p> <p><a href="http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/4513.15">http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/4513.15</a></p>
Oklahoma	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway, or shoulder adjacent thereto, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when the vehicle is within 1000 feet of oncoming traffic.</p> <p>High beams must also be dimmed when following within 600 feet of another vehicle.</p> <p><a href="http://law.justia.com/codes/oklahoma/2014/title-47/section-47-12-203.2">http://law.justia.com/codes/oklahoma/2014/title-47/section-47-12-203.2</a></p>

Oregon	<p>When limited visibility conditions exist a person shall use a distribution of light or composite beam that is directed sufficiently high and that is of such intensity so as to reveal persons and vehicles on the highway at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when approaching oncoming traffic within 500 feet.</p> <p>High beams must also be dimmed when following a vehicle within 350 feet.</p> <p><a href="http://www.oregonlaws.org/ors/811.515">http://www.oregonlaws.org/ors/811.515</a></p>
Pennsylvania	<p>High beams must be turned off when vehicle is within 500 feet of approaching traffic.</p> <p>High beams must be turned off when vehicle is within 300 feet coming from behind another vehicle.</p> <p><a href="http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&amp;ttl=75&amp;div=0&amp;chpt=43">http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&amp;ttl=75&amp;div=0&amp;chpt=43</a></p>
Rhode Island	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or on its shoulder, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when approaching another vehicle within 500 feet.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when coming up on another vehicle from behind within 200 feet.</p> <p><a href="http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE31/31-24/31-24-23.HTM">http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE31/31-24/31-24-23.HTM</a></p>
South Carolina	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or shoulder adjacent thereto, the driver shall use a distribution of light or composite beam directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal</p>

	<p>persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams should be dimmed when approaching within 500 feet of oncoming traffic.</p> <p>High beams should also be dimmed when following within 200 feet of a vehicle.</p> <p><a href="http://law.justia.com/codes/south-carolina/2012/title-56/chapter-5/section-56-5-4780">http://law.justia.com/codes/south-carolina/2012/title-56/chapter-5/section-56-5-4780</a></p>
South Dakota	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated upon a highway, or a portion thereof, which is sufficiently lighted to reveal a person on the highway at a distance of two hundred feet ahead of the vehicle, the driver shall tilt the beam downward. Whenever a motor vehicle meets another vehicle or overtakes another vehicle proceeding in the same direction on any highway, the driver shall tilt the beams of the headlamps downward.</p> <p><a href="http://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&amp;Statute=32-17-7">http://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&amp;Statute=32-17-7</a></p>
Tennessee	<p>When there is no oncoming vehicle within 500 feet, the driver shall use an upper distribution of light; provided, that a lower distribution of light may be used when fog, dust, or other atmospheric conditions make it desirable for reasons of safety, and when within the confines of municipalities where there is sufficient light to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles on the highway at a distance of 500 feet ahead and when following another vehicle within five hundred feet.</p> <p>When within 500 feet of an oncoming vehicle, a driver shall use a distribution of light so aimed that the glaring rays therefrom are not directed into the eyes of the oncoming driver.</p> <p><a href="http://law.justia.com/codes/tennessee/2010/title-55/chapter-9/part-4/55-9-407/">http://law.justia.com/codes/tennessee/2010/title-55/chapter-9/part-4/55-9-407/</a></p>

<p>Texas</p>	<p>A person who operates a vehicle on a roadway or shoulder shall select a distribution of light or composite beam that is aimed and emits light sufficient to reveal a person or vehicle at a safe distance ahead of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when you are approaching oncoming traffic within 500 feet.</p> <p>High beams must also be dimmed when you are coming up behind a vehicle within 300 feet.</p> <p><a href="http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/TN/htm/TN.547.htm">http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/TN/htm/TN.547.htm</a></p>
<p>Utah</p>	<p>If a vehicle is operated on a highway or shoulder adjacent to the highway under the conditions, the operator of a vehicle shall use a high or low beam distribution of light or composite beam... the distribution of light or composite beam shall be directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when approaching within 500 feet of oncoming traffic.</p> <p>High beams must also be dimmed when approaching within 300 feet behind another vehicle.</p> <p><a href="https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title41/Chapter6A/41-6a-S1613.html?v=C41-6a-S1613_2015051220150512">https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title41/Chapter6A/41-6a-S1613.html?v=C41-6a-S1613_2015051220150512</a></p>
<p>Vermont</p>	<p>The light from the front lamps of a motor vehicle while such vehicle is in motion, shall render any substantial object on the ground clearly visible at least 150 feet ahead of such vehicle, and, while such vehicle is at rest, shall be visible for at least 200 feet in the direction in which such vehicle is headed.</p> <p><a href="http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/23/013/01244">http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/23/013/01244</a></p>

Virginia	<p>Every vehicle in operation on a highway in the Commonwealth shall display lighted headlights and illuminating devices as required by this article (i)from sunset to sunrise, (ii) during any other time when, because of rain, smoke, fog, snow, sleet, insufficient light, or other unfavorable atmospheric conditions, visibility is reduced to a degree whereby persons or vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 500 feet and (iii)whenever windshield wipers are in use as a result of fog, rain, sleet, or snow.</p> <p><a href="http://law.justia.com/codes/virginia/2013/title-46.2/chapter-10/section-46.2-1030">http://law.justia.com/codes/virginia/2013/title-46.2/chapter-10/section-46.2-1030</a></p> <p>Whenever a vehicle is being driven on a highway or a portion thereof which is sufficiently lighted to reveal any person or object upon such highway at a distance of 350 feet ahead, the operator of such vehicle shall use the low beam of his vehicle's headlights or shall dim the headlights if the vehicle has single-beam lights.</p> <p>Whenever a vehicle approaches an oncoming vehicle within 500 feet, the driver of such vehicle shall use the low beam of his vehicle's headlights so aimed that glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of the oncoming driver or dim the headlights, if the vehicle has single-beam lights.</p> <p>Whenever the driver of any motor vehicle approaches from the rear or follows within 200 feet of another vehicle proceeding in the same direction, the driver shall use the low beam of his vehicle's headlights or shall dim the headlights if the vehicle has single-beam lights.</p> <p><a href="http://law.justia.com/codes/virginia/2006/toc4602000/46.2-1034.html">http://law.justia.com/codes/virginia/2006/toc4602000/46.2-1034.html</a></p>

<p>Washington</p>	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or shoulder adjacent, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when approaching oncoming traffic within 500 feet.</p> <p>High beams must also be dimmed when coming up on traffic from behind to within 300 feet.</p> <p><a href="http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=46.37.230">http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=46.37.230</a></p>
<p>West Virginia</p>	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or shoulder adjacent thereto, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams should be dimmed when oncoming traffic is within 500 feet.</p> <p>High beams must also be dimmed when approaching within 200 feet from behind another vehicle.</p> <p><a href="http://www.legis.state.wv.us/WVCODE/ChapterEntire.cfm?chap=17c&amp;art=15&amp;section=21#15#15">http://www.legis.state.wv.us/WVCODE/ChapterEntire.cfm?chap=17c&amp;art=15&amp;section=21#15#15</a></p>
<p>Wisconsin</p>	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a highway during hours of darkness or during a period of limited visibility, the operator shall use a distribution of light or composite beam directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal a person or vehicle at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when approaching within 500 feet of oncoming traffic.</p>

	<p>High beams must also be dimmed 500 feet of a vehicle when approaching from behind.</p> <p><a href="https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/347/1/12/1">https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/347/1/12/1</a></p>
Wyoming	<p>Whenever a motor vehicle if equipped with multiple-beam lamps is being operated on a highway, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle.</p> <p>High beams must be dimmed when within 500 feet of oncoming traffic.</p> <p>High beams should also be dimmed when approaching from behind to within 300 feet.</p> <p><a href="http://law.justia.com/codes/wyoming/2011/title31/chapter5/section31-5-924">http://law.justia.com/codes/wyoming/2011/title31/chapter5/section31-5-924</a></p>