



Which RBs are in line for extensions?

SPORTS, 1B

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Every state has its own transportation agency that handles driver's licensing, so standardizing laws for new drivers isn't as easy as it sounds – even if some safety advocates find the inconsistency alarming. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Many states enact tougher requirements for new drivers

Terry Collins
USA TODAY

A new wave of state laws is enforcing stricter requirements for new drivers, but states still can't agree on how much practice is needed. • While most states have some form of graduated driver's licensing laws, ranging from as low as 20 and as high as 70 supervised hours, more states are looking into adopting tougher mandates for young people, said Jonathan Adkins, CEO of the Governors Highway Safety Association, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit.

Florida, Washington and New Jersey tightened up requirements for new drivers in 2025, but even these new laws have inconsistent requirements. The new laws come as some traffic safety advocates say the United States would benefit from more uniform laws on the topic.

"There should be a national law for teen drivers," said Cheryl Giles, the longtime owner of Lakeland Atlantic Driving School in Winter Haven, Florida, which conducts about 1,000 student driving tests annually. "We desperately need some consistency."

Meanwhile, motor vehicle crashes continue to be among the leading causes of death for teens in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Teen drivers also face a disproportionately higher risk of crashes in comparison with older drivers, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports.

"I would call it an epidemic right now, and we all

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MA named best state to live in the U.S.

Catherine Messier
USA TODAY NETWORK - New England

Massachusetts is the best state to live in out of all 50 states in the country, according to a new study from WalletHub.

In order to determine the best U.S. states to live in, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 31 across 51 key indicators of livability. The data set ranges from things like housing costs and income growth to education rate and hospital quality.

According to WalletHub analyst Chip Lupo, deciding where to live should not only consider the cost of living, but also "a wide variety of other factors, such as how where you live will impact your health and safety, and whether you will have adequate access to activities that you enjoy."

Out of all 50 states, Massachusetts has once again received the highest score. Here's what WalletHub had to say about living in the state.

Why MA is the best state to live in

Though Massachusetts ranks as one of the lowest states in terms of affordability, it earns the overall title of best state to live in due largely to its strong health care system and high-quality education, says WalletHub.

Specifically, Massachusetts ranks first for best school systems with the 10th-best high school graduation rate in the country. In terms of healthcare, the state ranks fifth overall, with the lowest premature death rate, the fifth-lowest share of adults in poor health and the highest share of residents with

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European leaders to join Zelenskyy in DC

Andrew MacAskill, Tom Balmforth
and Andreas Rinke
REUTERS

LONDON – European leaders including from Germany, France and Britain will join Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to meet President Donald Trump in Washington, they said Aug. 17, seeking to shore up his position as Trump presses Ukraine to accept a quick peace deal.

Trump is leaning on Zelenskyy to strike an agreement after he met Rus-

sian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska, and on Aug. 17 promised "big progress on Russia" in a social media post without specifying what that might be.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Trump had seen enough to justify meeting Zelenskyy and the Europeans on Aug. 18 but added that both Russia and Ukraine would need to make concessions.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer were hosting a meeting of allies on Aug.

17 to bolster Zelenskyy's position, hoping in particular to lock down robust security guarantees for Ukraine that would include a U.S. role.

According to sources, the U.S. and Russian leaders discussed at their summit on Aug. 15 proposals for Russia to relinquish tiny pockets of occupied Ukraine in exchange for Ukraine ceding a swath of fortified land in the east and freezing the front lines elsewhere.

At face value, some of Putin's

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Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen attend a press conference Aug. 17 in Brussels. SIMON WOHLFAHRT/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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