

# The Dumbest Laws in Each of the 50 States

In recent weeks, we've seen 5-year-olds [fined](#) for selling lemonade, pet sitters [ticketed](#) for watching cats without a permit, teens [handcuffed](#) for selling bottles of water to thirsty people, and efforts to [criminalize](#) screen time for kids.

It got us thinking: how many silly, outrageous, and/or superfluous laws are there out there? Here are 50 laws that will make you laugh or scratch your head.

## 1. Alabama

Women can retain all property they owned prior to marriage in the case of divorce, [according to](#) Section 30-4-1 of the Alabama Code. However, this provision does not apply to men.

## 2. Alaska

It is legal to turn a picnic table or bench into a boat, but only if it contains all safety precautions like life vests and is registered as a boat, [according to](#) the Alaska DMV.

## 3. Arizona

It is illegal for a donkey to sleep in a bathtub, [according to](#) an Arizona-based law firm.

## 4. Arkansas

It is prohibited to pronounce "Arkansas" incorrectly, [according to](#) Arkansas Code Title 1-4-105.

## 5. California

It is forbidden to eat a frog that passed away during a "frog-jumping contest", [according to](#) Article 2-6883 of California's

fishing and game code.

## 6. **Colorado**

In Aspen, it is illegal to launch a catapult at any building or person, [according to](#) Section 15.04.210.

## 7. **Connecticut**

In Meriden, it is illegal for a non-police officer or member of the police department to have a whistle or make the 'bean police call' on a whistle, [according to](#) Statute 153-7.

## 8. **Delaware**

In Rehoboth Beach, children can only trick-or-treat on Halloween from 6-8 pm, [according to](#) Chapter 193-33. If Halloween falls on a Sunday, children must trick-or-treat on Saturday, October 30 between 6-8 pm.

## 9. **Florida**

Pregnant pigs must be unconfined and be able to roam freely when they are pregnant, [according to](#) the Florida Constitution 10.21. Only pigs are designated in the constitution as having these rights.

## 10. **Georgia**

In Athens-Clarke County, a goldfish or any other animal may not be given to someone to entice them to enter a business agreement or game, [according to](#) Section 4-1-9.

## 11. **Hawaii**

Hawaii has a law called "Aloha Spirit" that is the coordination of mind and heart within everyone. This allows everyone to emanate happy feelings to one another, [according to](#) Statute 5-7.5.

## 12. **Idaho**

In Pocatello, it is illegal not to smile in public, [according to](#) a 1948 “smile” ordinance, which was passed to heighten morale after a hard winter, therefore transforming Pocatello into the United States Smile Capital.

### 13. **Illinois**

Those under 21 can drink legally, but only if they’re enrolled in a culinary program, [according to](#) Section 3-3.

### 14. **Indiana**

It is illegal to see a hypnotist without a doctor’s note unless you are trying to lose weight or quit smoking, [according to](#) Article 20.5-1.

### 15. **Iowa**

The standard size of all boxes used for picking hops has to be *precisely* 36 inches long, 18 inches wide, and 24  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches deep, [according to](#) Statute 210-14.

### 16. **Kansas**

In Topeka, it is against the law to scream in a haunted house, [according to](#) Shawnee County’s Haunted House conduct.

### 17. **Kentucky**

One may not dye a duckling blue and put it up for sale unless more than six are for sale at one time, [according to](#) state Statute 436.600.

### 18. **Louisiana**

There is a \$500 fine if you instruct a pizza delivery man to deliver a pizza to your friend without them knowing, [according to](#) Section 14.68.6.

### 19. **Maine**

In Biddeford, it is illegal to gamble at the airport,

[according to](#) Section 14-2.

## 20. **Maryland**

In Rockville, swearing is prohibited on sidewalks, streets, and highways, and one can be charged with a misdemeanor for violating the ordinance, [according to](#) Section 13-53.

## 21. **Massachusetts**

In Massachusetts, shooting ranges are not allowed to have targets that are shaped like humans, [according to](#) Part 1, Title XX, Chapter 140, Section 131.

## 22. **Michigan**

Every year in Michigan, the last Sunday in June will be known as "Log Cabin Day", [according to](#) Act 60, Section 435.241.

## 23. **Minnesota**

It is illegal to grease up a pig to create a game if the aim of the game is to capture it again, [according to](#) Statute 343.36.

## 24. **Mississippi**

If a woman gives birth to two illegitimate children, at the same time or separately, she could go to jail for 30-90 days, [according to](#) Mississippi Code Title 97-29-11.

## 25. **Missouri**

Removing mattress tags or bringing an unlabeled mattress into the state is illegal in Missouri, [according to](#) Statute 421.007.1.

## 26. **Montana**

In Billings, Montana, residents are legally forbidden from raising pet rats, [according to](#) Section 4-301. However, if the rats are used as reptile or bird food, the practice is legal.

## 27. **Nebraska**

In Nebraska, persons with STDs cannot marry legally, [according to](#) Chapter 42, Section 102.

## 28. **Nevada**

In Reno, it is illegal to lie down on a public sidewalk, [according to](#) Section 8.12.015.

## 29. **New Hampshire**

In New Hampshire, it is illegal to pick up and collect seaweed off the beach during night hours, [according to](#) Title XVIII, Chapter 207:1.

## 30. **New Jersey**

Wearing a bullet-proof vest while murdering, kidnapping, robbing, or raping is illegal in New Jersey, [according to](#) S170.

## 31. **New Mexico**

In New Mexico, it is criminal – a petty misdemeanor, specifically – to misuse the national anthem or the state anthem, [according to](#) Section 30-21-5.

## 32. **New York**

If you're a mayor of a New York village, you are not allowed to move the remains of a deceased person from an unused cemetery unless you are moving them to another resting place in the same county, [according to](#) Statute 15-1508.

## 33. **North Carolina**

It is prohibited to use a secret handshake to agree to or do illegal things, [according to](#) Statute 14-12.4.

## 34. **North Dakota**

It is illegal to attempt or perform human cloning, [according](#)

[to Statute 12.1-39-02.](#)

### 35. **Ohio**

If a person coughs on another person while riding public transportation, the cougher can be arrested for a minor misdemeanor, according to Statute 2917.41.

### 36. **Oklahoma**

In Oklahoma, it is illegal to participate in horse tripping in any way, shape, or form. The offense comes with a punishment of a \$2,000 fine or one year in jail, [according to Statute 21-1700.](#)

### 37. **Oregon**

In Oregon, farmers can be unknowingly committing a crime if they are driving on the highway with too much hay, [according to Statute 164.815.](#)

### 38. **Pennsylvania**

If you've ever been convicted of a felony and you happen to be in Pennsylvania, you're not allowed to run a bingo game, [according to Act 92.](#)

### 39. **Rhode Island**

It is illegal to use a shopping cart at any other place except for the business labeled on the cart, [according to Statute 11-41.1-2.](#) This law also applies to dairy cases, egg baskets, bakery boxes, etc.

### 40. **South Carolina**

It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to play pinball, [according to Statute 63-19-20.](#)

### 41. **South Dakota**

It is unlawful to cause static electricity in the city of Huron, [according to Chapter 9.32.010.](#)

#### 42. **Tennessee**

It is illegal to share your passwords to any entertainment subscription service (i.e. Netflix, Hulu, HBO), [according to](#) Tennessee House Bill 1783.

#### 43. **Texas**

An atheist in the Lone Star State cannot hold any public office, [according to](#) the Texas Constitution, Article 1, Sec. 4.

#### 44. **Utah**

In Ogden, it is legal for animal control or law enforcement officers to have sex with animals, [according to](#) Ordinance 13-3-2. Whether the practice is open to the average citizen is unclear.

#### 45. **Vermont**

It is illegal to dress one's horse up in a disguise and to disguise it as something other than a horse, [according to](#) Statute 13-047.

#### 46. **Virginia**

In Virginia, cussing at another person is prohibited by law, [according to](#) Code of Virginia 18.2-416.

#### 47. **Washington**

In Washington, it is illegal to go out in public if you have a cold, [according to](#) RCW 70.54.050.

#### 48. **West Virginia**

In West Virginia, it is illegal to hunt any kind of wild animal by using a ferret, [according to](#) WV Code 20-2-5.

#### 49. **Wisconsin**

It is illegal to serve margarine in restaurants in Wisconsin

(unless customers specifically ask for it) and in state prisons (with the only exception being medical necessity), [according to](#) Chapter 97.18.

## 50. **Wyoming**

In the city of Newcastle, going out in public while cross-dressing is unlawful, [according to](#) Sec. 17-14.

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