VIRGINIA TRAFFIC LAWS: THE SURVIVAL GUIDE

MEMORIZE THE NUMBERS. DODGE THE TRAPS.



Virginia writes its rules with sharp edges: hard numbers and specific traps that catch visitors from other states. This is your visual playbook to beat the exam.

THE VIRGINIA LADDER



70 MPH — Interstate highways (highest posted)

55 MPH — Other highways (two-lane/divided)

35 MPH — Unpaved rural roads

25 MPH — Business/residential districts & school crossings

[LIMIT] + 20 MPH = RECKLESS

[ANY SPEED] > 85 MPH = RECKLESS



Trap: Older materials say 80 mph. The threshold is **85**. **80** is the trap answer.

Passing a stopped school bus is also Reckless Driving (a 6-demerit-point crime, not a simple ticket).

The posted limit is a maximum, not a target. Even 10 mph can be too fast for weather or traffic.

Hands-Free: The Device Law



First Offense → **$125 + 3 Demerit Points**

Second Offense → **$250**

Work Zone First Offense → **$250**

Under 18: Stricter Rule.

NO cell phone use at all while driving, not even hands-free (except genuine emergencies).

Trap Alert: The work-zone price applies immediately.

In your hand? Illegal. First time $125, second time $250 — and $250 the first time in a work zone.

Passenger Safety & Restraints

The Seatbelt Cross-Section

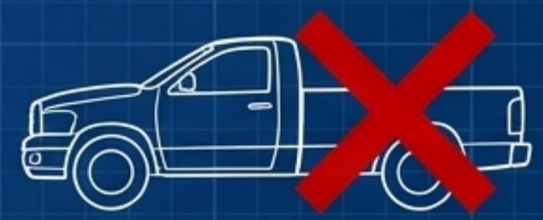


Every occupant, in every seat.
Adults face a $25 civil penalty (secondary offense).

Trap: Older materials say "front seat only" – don't fall for the trap.

JULY 1, 2025

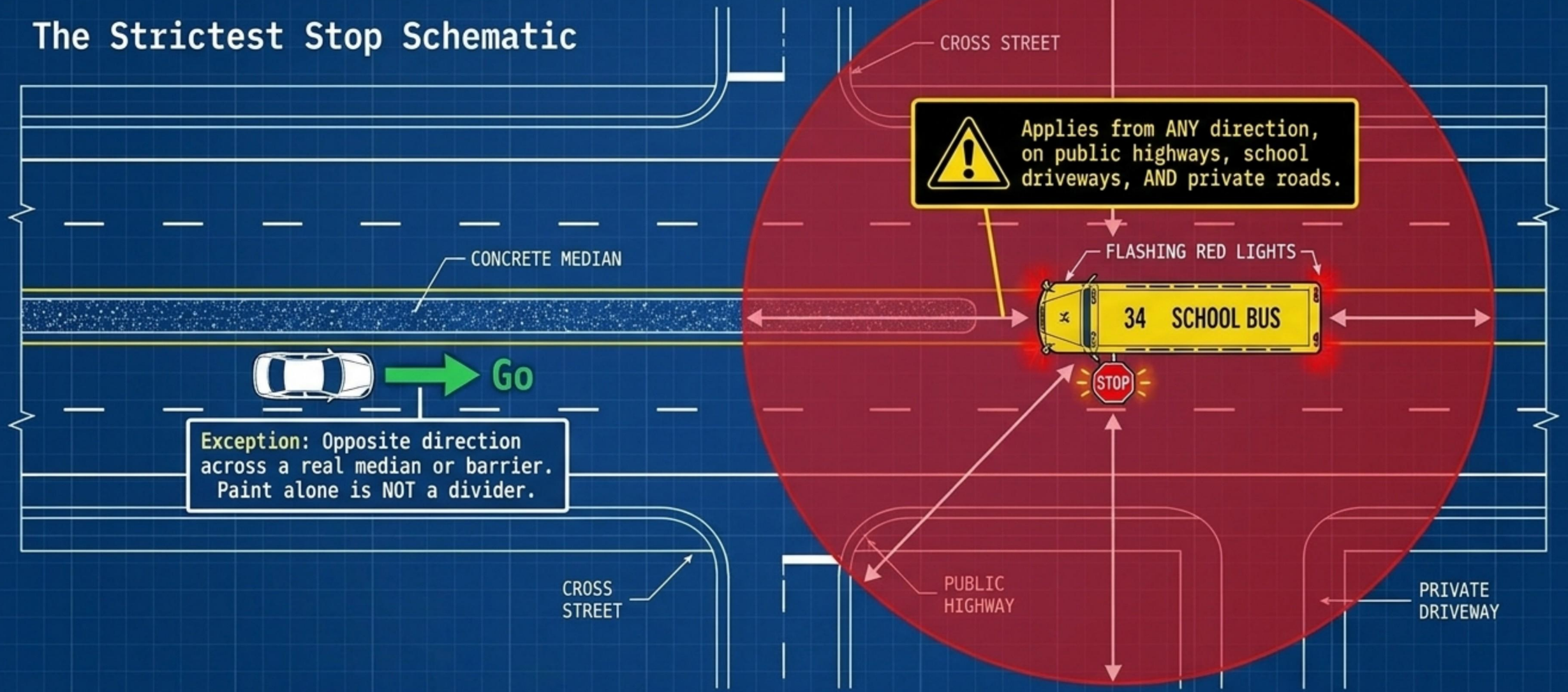
Under 8: Safety/booster seat.
Under 2: Rear-facing.
(Note: Driver is responsible).



Illegal to carry anyone under 16 in the bed.
A camper shell does not make it legal.

School Buses: The Strictest Stop

The Strictest Stop Schematic

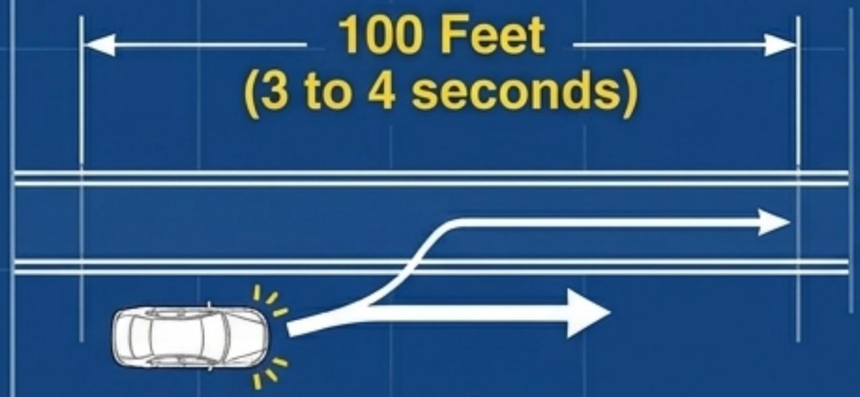


Any direction, any road – even private. One exception only: opposite direction, real median or barrier between you.

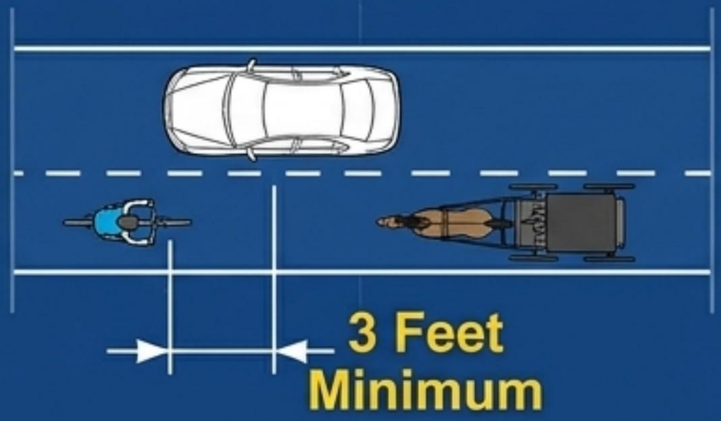
The “Move Over” Matrix

Emergency & Tow Trucks	Trash Trucks	Mail Vehicles & General Hazards
		
Change to a lane **not next to the vehicle.** If you cannot safely change, reduce speed and proceed with caution. Penalty: Court suspension & demerit points.	Highways of **4+ lanes**: change lanes. **Fewer than 4 lanes (or can’t change):** Slow to exactly **10 mph** below posted limit AND pass at least **2 feet** to its left.	**Moving emergency vehicle:** pull to right edge and stop. **Mail vehicle**: Pass with caution at safe speed. Rule applies to ANY vehicle with hazard lights/flares.

Road Geometry: Clearances & Distances



Signal early before every turn, lane change, or highway exit/entry.



If the lane is too narrow, change lanes to pass.



Never follow closer than 500 ft, and never park within 500 ft of fire equipment stopped at an alarm.

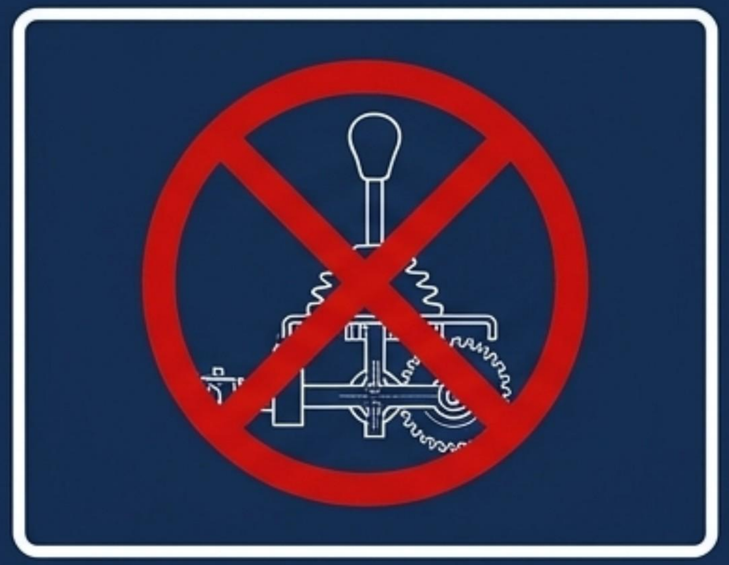
Trap: U-Turns in city/town business districts are permitted **ONLY** at intersections. **Treat as two left turns.**

Exam Traps: Signature “Illegal” Moves

The Signature Illegal List



Radar detectors are illegal in Virginia. A signature rule and a favorite exam trap.



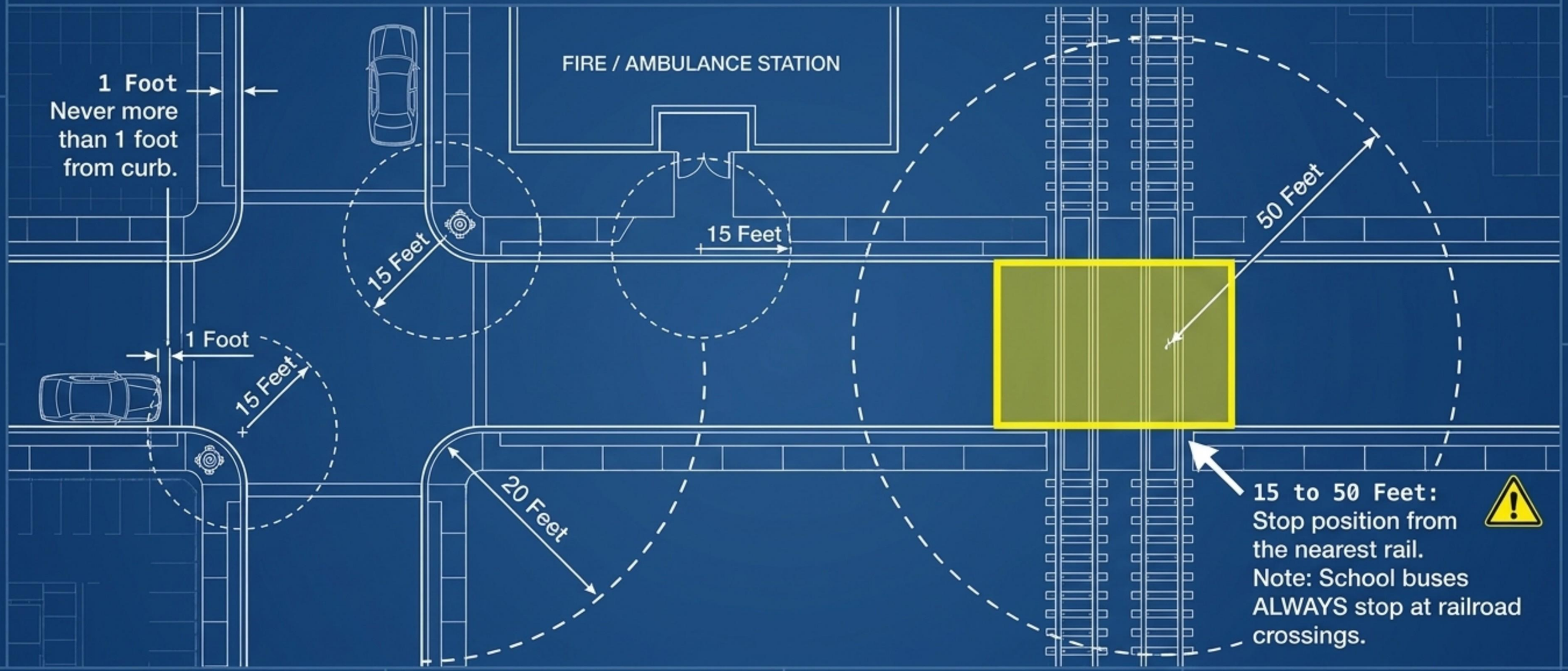
Coasting is illegal. Driving downhill with transmission in neutral or clutch disengaged breaks Virginia law.



Allowed ONLY if the vehicle ahead is turning left. NEVER pass by driving off the pavement or onto the shoulder.

Also strictly illegal: Driving on a sidewalk, or speeding up when someone is passing you.

Parking & Railroad Distances



Fifteen, twenty, fifty, fifteen — hydrant, intersection, railroad, fire station.

Hill Parking Steering Matrix

	With Curb	Without Curb
Downhill	 Turn front wheels **TOWARD** the curb.	 Turn wheels **RIGHT** (toward the road's edge) either way, so a rolling car moves away from traffic.
Uphill	 Turn front wheels **AWAY** from curb.	

The DMV Trap Check (3 Questions)

Q1 **(Speed): On an unpaved rural road with no posted limit, what is the maximum legal speed — and on an interstate where 70 is posted, at what speed does driving become reckless per se?**

Q2 **(Hands-Free): A driver holds her phone at a stoplight in a work zone to check directions. First offense — what fine does she face?**

Q3 **(Seatbelts): Since July 1, 2025, who must wear a seat belt in Virginia, and what kind of offense is an adult's violation?**

Lock in your answers. Turn to the final slide for the master Data Log & Answer Key.

Master Data Log & Answer Key

Answer Key
1. 35 MPH (rural limit) / >85 MPH (reckless threshold). 2. $250 (Work zone first offense hits at the second-offense rate). 3. Every occupant, every seat. Adults = Secondary offense, $25 civil penalty.

The Data Log Grid

Speed	25 (Biz/Res) | 35 (Rural) | 55 (Highway) | 70 (Interstate Max). **Reckless: >20mph over OR >85mph.**
Fines	**Phone: $125** (1st) | **$250** (2nd/Work Zone). **Seatbelt (Adult): $25.**
Distances	**1ft** (Curb) | **3ft** (Bikes) | **15ft** (Hydrant/Fire Station) | **20ft** (Intersection) | **50ft** (Railroad Park) | **15-50ft** (Railroad Stop) | **100ft** (Turn Signal) | **500ft** (Follow Fire Truck).
Trash Truck	**<4 lanes = 10mph below, 2ft left.**

Screenshot this blueprint. Pass the test. Share with a friend.

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drivinglicensetest.org/va