



Executive Summary

All 50 states have Safe Haven Laws, which allow mothers to surrender their child at a Safe Haven Location - typically hospitals, fire departments, police stations, or ambulance centers. These laws aim to prevent mothers who are unable or unwilling to care for a child from abandoning the child in unsafe, potentially deadly conditions. Safe Haven Baby Boxes (henceforth referred to as baby boxes) are an additional option for Safe Haven Locations. These baby boxes are secure, climate-controlled, padded boxes that allow mothers to anonymously surrender their child at a Safe Haven Surrender Location. These baby boxes include silent alarms that alert Safe Haven Location on-site staff members that a baby has been surrendered in the box. Staff are responsible for ensuring the infant is transported to a medical facility for evaluation and care before placement.

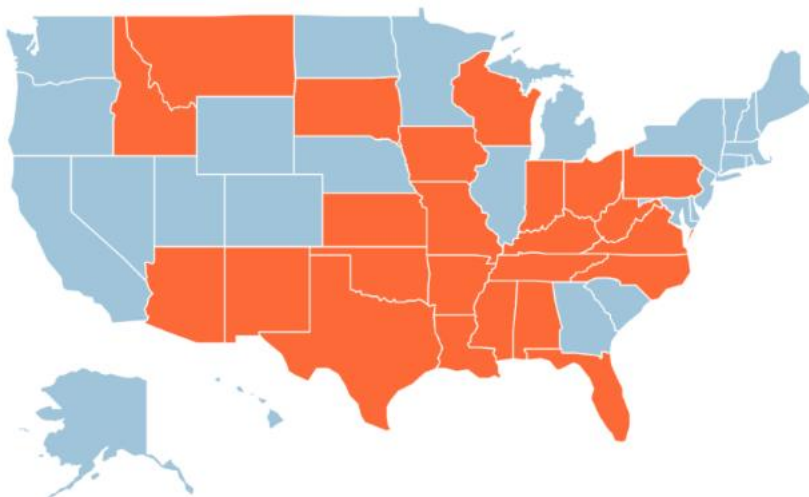
Research Methods

Review of state legislation via Quorum

Findings and Analysis

More than 400 baby boxes are currently installed across 24 states.ⁱ Figure 1 highlights which states have baby boxes, and Figure 2 provides a snapshot of the approximate number of baby boxes in each area. The first baby box was installed in Indiana in 2016; Indiana now has the largest number of baby boxes any state.ⁱⁱ Baby boxes cost approximately \$15,500 due to the construction, installation, alarm system, education of personnel, and yearly maintenance fees.ⁱⁱⁱ

Figure 1. States with Safe Haven Baby Boxes



SOURCE: Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc.^{iv}

Figure 2. Approximate Number of Safe Haven Baby Boxes in a Given Area



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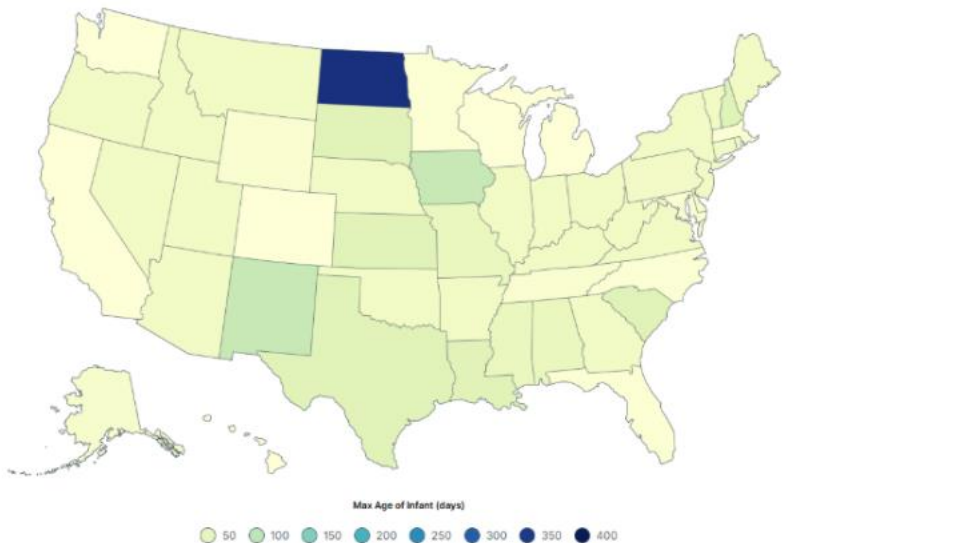
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SOURCE: Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc.^v

Each state’s Safe Haven Laws dictate the maximum age a child can be to be surrendered through a Safe Haven Location or Safe Haven Baby Box. Figure 3 shows the maximum age allowed in each state.

Figure 3. Safe Haven Laws Age Limitations by State



SOURCE: World Population Review^{vi}

Over the past decade, more than 70 newborns have been safely surrendered through baby boxes, including 14 in 2025.^{vii} States have established laws to codify requirements for baby boxes as well as paths to permanency for the surrendered children. Table 1 provides summaries of legislation from the CSG South member states from 2023 to the present.

Table1. Southern State Safe Haven Baby Box Legislation

State	Measure (Year)	Status	Summary
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Arkansas	House Bill 1098 (2023)	Enacted	The legislation amends the Safe Haven Act to allow parents to leave newborns with medical staff or in safety devices operated by volunteer fire departments, with specific conditions and responsibilities outlined for these entities.
Georgia	House Bill 0350 (2026)	Passed First Chamber	The bill revises Georgia's laws on safe places for newborns, allowing ambulance services to accept newborns, introducing monitored safety devices, and ensuring facilities are reimbursed for costs, while providing immunity from liability except in cases of negligence.
Kentucky	House Bill 0272 (2024)	Enacted	The legislation updates the Children's Code to regulate the installation and use of newborn safety devices at emergency care facilities, detailing operational standards, repealing certain provisions, and establishing procedures for relinquishing and reclaiming infants.
Louisiana	House Bill 0476 (2026)	Died in Committee	The bill requires all Louisiana public middle and high schools, including charter schools, to display informational flyers about the Safe Haven Law in every bathroom stall to raise student awareness of legal infant relinquishment options.
	Senate Bill 0092 (2024)	Enacted	The legislation modifies the definition of "infant" under the Safe Haven Law to start the sixty-day age limit from the date of discharge for infants admitted to a NICU at birth.
	Senate Bill 0414 (2024)	Enacted	The legislation updates the Children's Code to regulate the installation and use of newborn safety devices at emergency care facilities, detailing operational standards, repealing certain provisions, and establishing procedures for relinquishing and reclaiming infants.
	House Bill 0891 (2024)	Passed First Chamber	The legislation revises the Safe Haven Law to expand locations for infant relinquishment, streamline informational requirements, and ensure comprehensive medical evaluations and missing children



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			checks, while repealing certain previous provisions.
Mississippi	<u>Senate Bill 2377 (2023)</u>	Passed First Chamber	The Mississippi Safe Haven Law provides a secure and anonymous process for parents to relinquish infants to the state, with the Department of Child Protection Services assuming custody and initiating court proceedings to determine the termination of parental rights, while also amending various sections of the Mississippi Code related to child protection and adoption, and ensuring confidentiality in adoption proceedings.
	<u>House Bill 1318 (2023)</u>	Enacted	The bill revises the age limit of a child that can be dropped off to 45 days old or younger and authorizes the use of baby safety devices sponsored by emergency medical services providers.
North Carolina	<u>House Bill 0139 (2025)</u>	Passed First Chamber	This legislation seeks to formalize and expand safe surrender boxes in the state through the installation of newborn safety devices in qualified establishments to provide a safe and anonymous way for parents to surrender infants, with specific requirements and legal protections outlined.
Tennessee	<u>Senate Bill 0319 (2025)</u>	Enacted	This bill mandates that Tennessee high school students be educated about the state's safe haven law for infant surrender, with instructional guidelines developed and distributed before the 2025-2026 school year.
	<u>Senate Bill 1670 (2024)</u>	Enacted	The legislation broadens the types of facilities authorized to accept surrendered infants, including community health clinics, outpatient walk-in clinics, emergency communications centers, and nursing homes, with specific provisions for staffing and approval requirements.
	<u>Senate Bill 1671 (2024)</u>	Passed First Chamber Committees	The legislation requires the installation of newborn safety devices in every county in Tennessee, with specific deadlines for identifying locations, funding allocations, and annual reporting on the status and maintenance of these devices.
Texas	<u>House Bill 2263 (2025)</u>	Died in Committee	The legislation mandates the creation of a webpage and possibly a mobile app to provide



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			comprehensive pregnancy-related resources and information.
	<u>Senate Bill 0780 (2023)</u>	Enacted	The legislation allows designated emergency infant care providers to take possession of abandoned infants up to 60 days old, introduces newborn safety devices for safe relinquishment, and mandates operational alarm systems.
West Virginia	<u>Senate Bill 0008 (2025)</u>	Enacted	This legislation expands West Virginia's safe-surrender law by allowing the installation of newborn safety devices at additional emergency service locations, establishing operational standards, and providing legal protections for anonymous infant surrender and those involved in the process.
	<u>House Bill 3559 (2023)</u>	Enacted	This legislation defines "newborn safety device" and outlines the installation, location, and monitoring requirements for these devices, including dual alarm systems and 24-hour staffing by licensed emergency medical providers.

ⁱ Irwin, Gayle. 2026. "Pregnancy Help News - a Busy New Year for Safe Haven Baby Boxes." Pregnancy Help News. January 15, 2026. <https://pregnancyhelpnews.com/a-busy-new-year-for-safe-haven-baby-boxes>.

ⁱⁱ Story, Our. 2016. "Safe Haven Baby Boxes." Safe Haven Baby Boxes. 2016. <https://www.shbb.org/history>.

ⁱⁱⁱ EMS, Baldwin Area. 2025. "Baldwin Area EMS." Baldwin Area EMS. 2025. <https://baldwinambulance.com/safe-haven-baby-box>.

^{iv} Safe. 2025. "Safe Haven Baby Boxes." Safe Haven Baby Boxes. 2025. <https://www.shbb.org/home-8>.

^v "Safe Haven: Baby Box Locators." 2025. Vercel.app. 2025. <https://project-safe-haven-babybox.vercel.app/>.

^{vi} "Safe Haven Laws by State 2024." n.d. Worldpopulationreview.com. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/safe-haven-laws-by-state>.

^{vii} Irwin, Gayle. 2026. "Pregnancy Help News - a Busy New Year for Safe Haven Baby Boxes." Pregnancy Help News. January 15, 2026. <https://pregnancyhelpnews.com/a-busy-new-year-for-safe-haven-baby-boxes>.