



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 1187

LCO No. 3742

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY VEHICLES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 (a) "Emergency vehicle", as used in this section, means any
2 ambulance or emergency medical service organization vehicle
3 responding to an emergency call, any vehicle used by a fire
4 department or by any officer of a fire department while on the way to
5 a fire or while responding to an emergency call but not while returning
6 from a fire or emergency call, [or] any state or local police vehicle
7 operated by a police officer or inspector of the Department of Motor
8 Vehicles answering an emergency call or in the pursuit of fleeing law
9 violators or any Department of Correction vehicle operated by a
10 Department of Correction officer while in the course of such officer's
11 employment and while responding to an emergency call.

12 (b) The operator of any emergency vehicle may (1) park or stand
13 such vehicle, irrespective of the provisions of this chapter, (2) proceed
14 past any red light or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing
15 down or stopping to the extent necessary for the safe operation of such
16 vehicle, (3) exceed the posted speed limits or other speed limits
17 imposed by or pursuant to section 14-218a or 14-219 as long as [he]

18 such operator does not endanger life or property by so doing, and (4)
19 disregard statutes, ordinances or regulations governing direction of
20 movement or turning in specific directions.

21 (c) The exemptions herein granted shall apply only when an
22 emergency vehicle is making use of an audible warning signal device,
23 including but not limited to a siren, whistle or bell which meets the
24 requirements of subsection (f) of section 14-80, and visible flashing or
25 revolving lights which meet the requirements of sections 14-96p and
26 14-96q, and to any state or local police vehicle properly and lawfully
27 making use of an audible warning signal device only.

28 (d) The provisions of this section shall not relieve the operator of an
29 emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the
30 safety of all persons and property.

31 (e) Upon the immediate approach of an emergency vehicle making
32 use of such an audible warning signal device and such visible flashing
33 or revolving lights or of any state or local police vehicle properly and
34 lawfully making use of an audible warning signal device only, the
35 operator of every other vehicle in the immediate vicinity shall
36 immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to,
37 the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway clear of any intersection
38 and shall stop and remain in such position until the emergency vehicle
39 has passed, except when otherwise directed by a state or local police
40 officer or fireman as provided in section 7-313a.

41 (f) Any officer of a fire department may remove, or cause to be
42 removed, any vehicle upon any public or private way which obstructs
43 or retards any fire department, or any officer thereof, in controlling or
44 extinguishing any fire.

45 (g) Any person who wilfully or negligently obstructs or retards any
46 ambulance or emergency medical service organization vehicle while
47 answering any emergency call or taking a patient to a hospital, or any
48 vehicle used by a fire department or any officer or member of a fire

49 department while on the way to a fire, or while responding to an
50 emergency call, or any vehicle used by the state police or any local
51 police department, or any officer of the Division of State Police within
52 the Department of Public Safety or any local police department while
53 on the way to an emergency call or in the pursuit of fleeing law
54 violators, shall be fined not more than fifty dollars or imprisoned not
55 more than seven days or both.

56 (h) Nothing in this section shall be construed as permitting the use
57 of a siren upon any motor vehicle other than an emergency vehicle, as
58 defined in subsection (a) of this section, or a rescue service vehicle
59 which is registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles pursuant to
60 section 19a-181.

Statement of Purpose:

To include Department of Correction vehicles responding to an emergency call in the definition of "emergency vehicle" and thereby allow such vehicles to use audible warning signal devices and flashing or revolving lights and not abide by certain traffic laws and regulations.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]