



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 667

February Session, 2014

Substitute Senate Bill No. 430

Senate, April 24, 2014

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. COLEMAN of the 2nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF EMERGENCY VEHICLES.

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of section 14-283 of the
2 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

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

15 while responding to an emergency call.

16 (b) The operator of any emergency vehicle may (1) park or stand
17 such vehicle, irrespective of the provisions of this chapter, (2) proceed
18 past any red light or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing
19 down or stopping to the extent necessary for the safe operation of such
20 vehicle, (3) exceed the posted speed limits or other speed limits
21 imposed by or pursuant to section 14-218a or 14-219 as long as such
22 operator does not endanger life or property by so doing, [and] (4)
23 disregard statutes, ordinances or regulations governing direction of
24 movement or turning in specific directions, and (5) proceed past any
25 registered school bus on any highway or private road or in any
26 parking area or on any school property when such school bus is
27 displaying flashing red signal lights, but only after slowing down or
28 stopping to the extent necessary for the safe operation of such vehicle.

29 (c) The exemptions [herein] granted in this section shall apply only
30 when an emergency vehicle is making use of an audible warning
31 signal device, including but not limited to a siren, whistle or bell which
32 meets the requirements of subsection (f) of section 14-80, and visible
33 flashing or revolving lights which meet the requirements of sections
34 14-96p and 14-96q, and to any state or local police vehicle properly and
35 lawfully making use of an audible warning signal device only.

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

39 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 14-279 of the general statutes is
40 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
41 *October 1, 2014*):

42 (a) The operator of any vehicle, motor vehicle, or authorized
43 emergency vehicle, as defined in section 14-1, shall immediately bring
44 such vehicle to a stop not less than ten feet from the front when
45 approaching and not less than ten feet from the rear when overtaking
46 or following any registered school bus on any highway or private road

47 or in any parking area or on any school property when such school bus
 48 is displaying flashing red signal lights, except (1) at the specific
 49 direction of a traffic officer, or (2) if such authorized emergency vehicle
 50 is operated pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section 14-
 51 283, as amended by this act. Vehicles so stopped for a school bus shall
 52 not proceed until such school bus no longer displays flashing red
 53 signal lights. At the intersection of two or more highways vehicular
 54 turns toward a school bus receiving or discharging passengers are
 55 prohibited. The operator of a vehicle upon a highway with separate
 56 roadways need not stop upon meeting or passing a school bus which is
 57 on a different roadway.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2014	14-283(a) to (d)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2014	14-279(a)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 1, the new language in subsection (b)(5) was rewritten to conform with the existing provisions of subsection (b)(2), and related provisions of section 14-283 were included for context and clarity, and section 2 was added to make necessary conforming changes.

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill, which modifies statutes concerning the operation of emergency vehicles, has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 430*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF EMERGENCY VEHICLES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows an emergency vehicle operator to proceed past a school bus displaying flashing red signal lights on a highway or private road, in a parking area, or on school property, but only after slowing down or stopping to the extent necessary for the safe operation of the emergency vehicle. By law, the vehicle must be using an audible signal, such as a siren, and flashing or revolving lights.

Under current law, all vehicles, including emergency vehicles, must stop for a school bus displaying flashing red signal lights. The operator must stop at least 10 feet from the front when approaching and 10 feet from the rear when overtaking or following the bus on a highway or private road, in any parking area, or on school property, except at a traffic officer's direction.

By law, violators are subject to a \$450 fine for a first offense and, for a subsequent offense, a fine of between \$500 and \$1,000, imprisonment for up to 30 days, or both (CGS § 14-279(b)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

BACKGROUND***Emergency Vehicle Operation***

By law, emergency vehicle operators may:

1. park or stand the vehicle notwithstanding other laws;
2. proceed past a red light or stop signal or stop sign after slowing down or stopping to the extent necessary for the safe operation

of the vehicle;

3. exceed posted speed limits as long as they do not endanger life or property; and
4. disregard statutes, ordinances, or regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specific directions.

The exemptions apply when the emergency vehicle is using an audible warning signal device, such as a siren, whistle, or bell, and visible flashing or revolving lights that meet standards specified in law.

Legislative History

The Senate referred the bill (File 122) to the Judiciary Committee, which replaced the original bill with this substitute. The original bill reiterated that an emergency vehicle was required to stop for school buses displaying flashing red signal lights.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/13/2014)

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 39 Nay 0 (04/14/2014)