



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 430**

February Session, 2014



**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2 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  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	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	14-283(a) to (d)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	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.*