



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

**Committee Bill No. 6590**

LCO No. 4654



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:  
(TRA)

***AN ACT CONCERNING SPEED LIMITS IN MUNICIPALITIES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 14-218a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

3 (a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle upon any public  
4 highway of the state, or road of any specially chartered municipal  
5 association or any district organized under the provisions of chapter  
6 105, a purpose of which is the construction and maintenance of roads  
7 and sidewalks, or on any parking area as defined in section 14-212, or  
8 upon a private road on which a speed limit has been established in  
9 accordance with this [subsection] section, or upon any school property,  
10 at a rate of speed greater than is reasonable, having regard to the  
11 width, traffic and use of highway, road or parking area, the  
12 intersection of streets and weather conditions. The Office of the State  
13 Traffic Administration may determine speed limits which are  
14 reasonable and safe on any state highway, bridge or parkway built or  
15 maintained by the state, and differing limits may be established for  
16 different types of vehicles, and may erect or cause to be erected signs

17 indicating such speed limits.

18 (b) (1) The traffic authority of any town, city or borough may  
19 establish speed limits on streets, highways and bridges or in any  
20 parking area for ten cars or more or on any private road wholly within  
21 the municipality under its jurisdiction; provided (A) such speed limit  
22 on streets, highways, bridges and parking areas for ten cars or more  
23 shall become effective, except as provided in subdivision (2) of this  
24 subsection, only after application for approval thereof has been  
25 submitted in writing to the Office of the State Traffic Administration  
26 and a certificate of such approval has been forwarded by the office to  
27 the traffic authority; [and provided such] (B) signs giving notice of  
28 such speed limits shall have been erected as the Office of the State  
29 Traffic Administration directs; [, provided] and (C) the erection of such  
30 signs on any private road shall be at the expense of the owner of such  
31 road. The presence of such signs adjacent to or on the highway or  
32 parking area for ten cars or more shall be prima facie evidence that  
33 they have been so placed under the direction of and with the approval  
34 of the Office of the State Traffic Administration. Approval of such  
35 speed limits may be revoked by the Office of the State Traffic  
36 Administration at any time if said office deems such revocation to be  
37 in the interest of public safety and welfare, and thereupon such speed  
38 limits shall cease to be effective and any signs that have been erected  
39 shall be removed.

40 (2) The traffic authority of any town, city or borough may reduce a  
41 speed limit of thirty-five miles per hour or lower that has been  
42 approved by the Office of the State Traffic Administration on streets,  
43 highways and bridges or in any parking area for ten cars or more or on  
44 any private road wholly within the municipality under its jurisdiction  
45 by not more than fifteen miles per hour, provided such traffic  
46 authority (A) holds a public hearing regarding the proposed lower  
47 speed limit, and (B) notifies the Office of the State Traffic  
48 Administration of the lower speed limit.

49 (c) Any speed in excess of [such limits] a speed limit that has been

50 established in accordance with this section, other than speeding as  
51 provided for in section 14-219, as amended by this act, shall be prima  
52 facie evidence that such speed is not reasonable, but the fact that the  
53 speed of a vehicle is lower than such ~~limits~~ speed limit shall not  
54 relieve the operator from the duty to decrease speed when a special  
55 hazard exists with respect to pedestrians or other traffic or by reason of  
56 weather or highway conditions.

57 ~~[(b)]~~ (d) The Office of the State Traffic Administration shall establish  
58 a speed limit of sixty-five miles per hour on any multiple lane, limited  
59 access highways that are suitable for a speed limit of sixty-five miles  
60 per hour, taking into consideration relevant factors including design,  
61 population of area and traffic flow.

62 ~~[(c)]~~ (e) Any person who operates a motor vehicle at a greater rate of  
63 speed than is reasonable, other than speeding ~~[,]~~ as provided for in  
64 section 14-219, as amended by this act, shall commit the infraction of  
65 traveling unreasonably fast.

66 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 14-36 of the general statutes is  
67 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
68 *October 1, 2019*):

69 (a) Except as otherwise provided by this section and section 14-40a,  
70 no person shall operate a motor vehicle on any public highway of this  
71 state or private road on which a speed limit has been established in  
72 accordance with ~~[subsection (a) of]~~ section 14-218a, as amended by this  
73 act, until such person has obtained a motor vehicle operator's license.

74 Sec. 3. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 14-219 of the general  
75 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
76 (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

77 (a) No person shall operate any motor vehicle (1) upon any  
78 highway, road or any parking area for ten cars or more, at such a rate  
79 of speed as to endanger the life of any occupant of such motor vehicle,  
80 but not the life of any other person than such an occupant; (2) at a rate

81 of speed greater than fifty-five miles per hour upon any highway other  
82 than a highway specified in subsection [(b)] (d) of section 14-218a, as  
83 amended by this act, for which a speed limit has been established in  
84 accordance with the provisions of said subsection; (3) at a rate of speed  
85 greater than sixty-five miles per hour upon any highway specified in  
86 subsection [(b)] (d) of section 14-218a, as amended by this act, for  
87 which a speed limit has been established in accordance with the  
88 provisions of said subsection; or (4) if such person is under eighteen  
89 years of age, upon any highway or road for which a speed limit of less  
90 than sixty-five miles per hour has been established in accordance with  
91 subsection (a) or (b) of section 14-218a, as amended by this act, at a rate  
92 of speed more than twenty miles per hour above such speed limit.

93 (b) Any person who operates a motor vehicle (1) on a multiple lane,  
94 limited access highway other than a highway specified in subsection  
95 [(b)] (d) of section 14-218a, as amended by this act, for which a speed  
96 limit has been established in accordance with the provisions of said  
97 subsection at a rate of speed greater than fifty-five miles per hour but  
98 not greater than seventy miles per hour, (2) on a multiple lane, limited  
99 access highway specified in subsection [(b)] (d) of section 14-218a, as  
100 amended by this act, for which a speed limit has been established in  
101 accordance with the provisions of said subsection at a rate of speed  
102 greater than sixty-five miles per hour but not greater than seventy  
103 miles per hour, (3) on any other highway at a rate of speed greater than  
104 fifty-five miles per hour but not greater than sixty miles per hour, or  
105 (4) if such person is under eighteen years of age, upon any highway or  
106 road for which a speed limit of less than sixty-five miles per hour has  
107 been established in accordance with subsection (a) or (b) of section 14-  
108 218a, as amended by this act, at a rate of speed more than twenty miles  
109 per hour above such speed limit, shall commit an infraction, provided  
110 any such person operating a truck, as defined in section 14-260n, shall  
111 have committed a violation and shall be fined not less than one  
112 hundred dollars nor more than one hundred fifty dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	14-218a
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	14-36(a)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	14-219(a) and (b)

**TRA**      *Joint Favorable*