

Fines for Violating Motor Vehicle Laws in Work Zones

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Issue

Discuss the fines for violating Connecticut motor vehicle laws in a work zone.

Summary

By law, Superior Court judges must impose a fee equal to 100% of the fine for violating certain motor vehicle laws in clearly-designated construction, utility, fire station, or traffic management zones (hereafter “work zones”). This increased penalty applies to over 50 infractions, violations, and crimes and effectively doubles their basic fine ([CGS § 14-212a](#)). Since a majority of these are infractions or violations and punishable only by a fine, this report does not cover crimes to which the increased penalty applies, such as negligent homicide with a motor vehicle. (By law, crimes are punishable by time in prison, a fine, or both.) For infractions and violations subject to the penalty, their base fines range from \$50 to \$90 and from \$50 to \$1,000 respectively. The law imposes additional charges, including assessments and surcharges, on top of the base fine and matching work zone fee.

Separate from the penalty discussed above, state law subjects a person convicted of endangering a highway worker in a clearly-designated highway work zone to fines up to: 1) \$500 if no physical injury occurs, 2) \$1,000 if physical injury occurs, 3) \$5,000 if a highway worker is seriously injured, or 4) \$10,000 if the worker is killed. A convicted person is also subject to any other penalty authorized by law ([CGS § 14-212d](#)).

Work Zone Base Fines

Table 1 lists the motor vehicle infractions and violations for which judges must impose the increased penalty when they occur in work zones and their base fines. By law, Superior Court judges set the fines for infractions within a statutorily specified range. For violations, the legislature generally sets the fines in statute, though in some instances the judges set them (see the [fines schedule](#) as well as [CGS §§ 51-164m](#); [53a-43](#); and [54-195](#)). (We identify the laws containing violations in the table with an asterisk.)

Table 1: Base Fines for Motor Vehicle Infractions and Violations in Work Zones

<i>Statute</i>	<i>Brief Description</i>	<i>Base Fine</i>
14-213	Failure to carry an operator's license	\$50
14-213b *	Operation of a motor vehicle without the statutorily required car insurance	\$100 to \$1,000
14-214	Improper instruction of an unlicensed person in motor vehicle operation	\$50
14-216	Operation of a motor vehicle by a person under 18 without insurance	\$50
14-218a	Operation at unreasonable rate of speed	\$50 to \$90
14-219 *	Speeding	\$50 to \$90 (for infractions); \$100 to \$200 (for violations)
14-220	Slow Speed, impeding traffic; Failure to use flashing lights	\$50
14-221	Operation of a low speed vehicle carrying passengers for hire without a permit	\$50
14-223	Failure to obey signal of officer	\$50
14-230	Failure to drive on the right	\$50
14-230a	Improper usage of left lane by commercial motor vehicles, school buses, buses, or vehicles with trailers	\$88
14-231	Failure to keep to right when meeting opposing traffic	\$50
14-232	Improper passing or failure to yield to passing vehicle	\$50
14-233	Passing on right	\$50
14-235	Failure to keep to right on curve, grade, or when approaching intersection	\$50
14-236	Failure to drive in proper lane on multiple-lane highway	\$50
14-237	Driving wrong-way on divided highway	\$75

Table 1 (continued)

<i>Statute</i>	<i>Brief Description</i>	<i>Base Fine</i>
14-238	Improper entry or leaving of a controlled access highway	\$50
14-238a	Improper entry upon a limited access highway	\$50
14-239	Driving wrong way on one-way highway or rotaries; Failure to grant right of way to vehicle in rotary	\$50
14-240*	Failure to drive a reasonable distance apart	\$50 (for infractions); \$100 to \$150 (for violations)
14-241	Improper turn	\$50
14-242	Failure to give proper signal for a turn; Failure to grant rights of way	\$50
14-243	Unsafe starting or backing of vehicle	\$50
14-244	Improper signaling for turns or stopping	\$50
14-245	Failure to grant right of way at an intersection	\$50
14-246a	Failure to grant right of way at a highway junction	\$50
14-247	Failure to yield when emerging from driveway or private road	\$50
14-247a	Failure to grant right of way when emerging from alley, driveway, or building	\$50
14-248a	Failure to reduce speed or stop at a cattle crossing	\$50
14-249	Failure to obey signal at railroad crossing	\$90
14-250*	Failure of commercial or public service motor vehicle to stop at railroad crossing	\$90 (for infractions); \$150 (for violations)
14-250a	Improper operation of motor vehicle on sidewalk	\$50
14-257	Improper seating of passengers	\$50
14-261	Improper distance between wrecker and towed vehicle; Improper pushing of a vehicle	\$50
14-266*	Operation of a vehicles with over four tons' capacity on restricted highways	\$100 to \$500
14-271	Operation of a vehicle improperly loaded or constructed to carry load	\$50 to \$75
14-273	Improper seating of passengers on a vehicle for which a passenger endorsement or passenger and school endorsement is required; Exceeding capacity of said vehicle	\$50

Table 1 (continued)

<i>Statute</i>	<i>Brief Description</i>	<i>Base Fine</i>
14-279 *	Improper passing of a standing school bus	\$450 to \$1,000
14-281a	Operation of school bus at excessive speed; Failure to display lighted headlamps while transporting school children	\$50 to \$80
14-283(e) *	Failure to stop on right side of road	\$50
14-283(h) *	Obstruction of an emergency vehicle	\$125
14-289a	Improper seating of self or passengers on motorcycle	\$50
14-289b	Improper operation of a motorcycle or auticycle	\$50
14-296aa *	Operation of a motor vehicle while using a hand-held mobile telephone or a mobile electronic device	\$150 to \$500

As noted previously, the law imposes charges, on top of the base fine and matching fee, for committing the above infractions and violations. Generally, these may include: a (1) fee of \$1 for each \$8 of the assessed fine for municipal and state police training funds ([CGS § 51-56a\(c\)](#)), (2) court cost assessment of \$15 ([CGS § 54-143\(a\)](#)), (3) cost surcharge of \$20 or \$35 for the General Fund ([CGS § 54-143a](#)), (4) 50% surcharge on the fine for the Special Transportation Fund ([CGS § 13b-70](#)), (5) assessment of \$5 for brain injury prevention and services ([CGS § 14-295a](#)), and (6) fee of \$20 for remittance to the municipality in which a violation occurred ([CGS § 51-56a\(d\)](#)).

For example, if a person is ticketed for violating CGS § 14-237 (i.e., driving the wrong-way on a divided highway) in a work zone, then the total amount due is \$253 according to the Superior Court's fines schedule. This total is made up of a \$75 base fine, a \$75 work zone fee matching that fine, additional fees of \$10 and \$20, and surcharges of \$35 and \$38.

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