



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Committee Bill No. 5420

LCO No. 3483



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY AT INOPERATIVE TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2021*) The driver of a vehicle
2 approaching an intersection controlled by a traffic control signal that is
3 inoperative shall stop such vehicle and proceed in the same manner as
4 though a stop sign were facing in each direction at the intersection,
5 unless otherwise directed by a police officer. Violation of this section
6 shall be an infraction.

7 Sec. 2. Section 14-297 of the general statutes is repealed and the
8 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

9 Terms used in this chapter shall be construed as follows, unless
10 another construction is clearly apparent from the language or context in
11 which the term is used or unless the construction is inconsistent with
12 the manifest intention of the General Assembly:

13 (1) The following terms shall be construed as they are defined in
14 section 14-1: "Authorized emergency vehicle", "class 1 electric bicycle",
15 "class 2 electric bicycle", "class 3 electric bicycle", "driver", "electric

16 bicycle", "electric foot scooter", "head lamp", "highway", ["intersection"],
17 "limited access highway", "motor vehicle", "number plate", "operator",
18 "person", "rotary" or "roundabout", "shoulder", "stop", "truck" and
19 "vehicle";

20 (2) "Crosswalk" means that portion of a highway ordinarily included
21 within the prolongation or connection of the lateral lines of sidewalks at
22 intersections, or any portion of a highway distinctly indicated, by lines
23 or other markings on the surface, as a crossing for pedestrians, except
24 such prolonged or connecting lines from an alley across a street;

25 (3) "Intersection" has the same meaning as provided in section 14-212;

26 [(3)] (4) "Official traffic control devices" means all signs, signals,
27 markings and devices consistent with the provisions of this chapter and
28 placed or erected, for the purpose of regulating, warning or guiding
29 traffic, by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction;

30 [(4)] (5) "Parking" means the standing of a vehicle, whether occupied
31 or not, on a highway, except it shall not include the temporary standing
32 of a vehicle for the purpose of and while engaged in receiving or
33 discharging passengers or loading or unloading merchandise or while
34 in obedience to traffic regulations or traffic signs or signals;

35 [(5)] (6) "Traffic" means pedestrians, vehicles and other conveyances
36 while using any highway for the purpose of travel;

37 [(6)] (7) "Traffic authority" means the board of police commissioners
38 of any city, town or borough, or the city or town manager, the chief of
39 police, the superintendent of police or any legally elected or appointed
40 official or board, or any official having similar powers and duties, of any
41 city, town or borough that has no board of police commissioners but has
42 a regularly appointed force, or the board of selectmen of any town in
43 which there is no city or borough with a regularly appointed police
44 force, except that, with respect to state highways and bridges, "traffic
45 authority" means the Office of the State Traffic Administration,
46 provided nothing contained in this section shall be construed to limit or

47 detract from the jurisdiction or authority of the Office of the State Traffic
48 Administration to adopt regulations establishing a uniform system of
49 traffic control signals, devices, signs and markings as provided in
50 section 14-298, and the requirement that no installation of any traffic
51 control signal light shall be made by any city, town or borough until the
52 installation has been approved by the Office of the State Traffic
53 Administration as provided in section 14-299;

54 [(7)] (8) "Traffic control sign" means any sign bearing a message with
55 respect to the stopping or to the rate of speed of vehicles; and

56 [(8)] (9) "Traffic control signal" means any device, whether operated
57 manually, electrically or mechanically, by which traffic is alternately
58 directed to stop and to proceed.

59 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 14-25d of the general statutes is
60 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
61 *1, 2021*):

62 (b) Any traffic authority, as defined in [subdivision (6) of] section 14-
63 297, as amended by this act, may impose restrictions or prohibitions
64 concerning the use and operation of any such amphibious vehicle
65 registered as a motor bus, on any highway or bridge under its
66 jurisdiction as such traffic authority determines to be necessary for the
67 protection of the passengers of such amphibious vehicle and highway
68 users.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-297
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	14-25d(b)

Statement of Purpose:

To require a motor vehicle operator, when approaching an intersection with an inoperative traffic control signal, to stop as though such intersection was controlled by a stop sign.

[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.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. SMITH, 48th Dist.; REP. JOHNSON, 49th Dist.
REP. CONLEY, 40th Dist.; REP. HOWARD, 43rd Dist.
REP. NOLAN, 39th Dist.; SEN. SOMERS, 18th Dist.
SEN. NEEDLEMAN, 33rd Dist.; SEN. OSTEN, 19th Dist.
REP. HADDAD, 54th Dist.; REP. RYAN, 139th Dist.

H.B. 5420