



PA 21-61—HB 5420

Transportation Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY AT INOPERATIVE TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS

SUMMARY: This act requires drivers, when approaching intersections with inoperative traffic signals, to stop their vehicles and proceed as though a stop sign were facing in each direction at the intersection (e.g., a four-way stop) unless a police officer directs them otherwise. The act makes violating this requirement an infraction (see [Table on Penalties](#)).

Under prior law, if a traffic signal was inoperative, the intersection became “uncontrolled” and the standard right-of-way rules applied, which remain unchanged by the act. These rules vary based on the location and driver’s intended actions. For example:

1. at intersections where two or more roads cross each other, a driver must yield to the vehicle on the right if both vehicles arrive at the intersection at about the same time (CGS § 14-245);
2. at junctions (i.e., where a road joins another road but does not cross it), the driver on the joining road must yield to drivers on the other road if both vehicles arrive at about the same time (CGS § 14-246a); and
3. drivers intending to turn left at an intersection or into a driveway or alley must yield to vehicles approaching from the opposite direction (CGS § 14-242(e)).

By law, and under the act, an “intersection” is generally the area within the extension of the lateral curb lines of two or more roads that join at an angle, whether or not one of the roads crosses the other (CGS § 14-212(4)).

The act also makes technical and conforming changes, including one to the cross-reference for the definition of “intersection.”

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021