



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6746

LCO No. 4689



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING WRONG-WAY DRIVING DETECTION AND PREVENTION.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) For the purposes of this
2 section, (1) "wrong-way driving detection and notification system"
3 means a system capable of (A) alerting a motor vehicle operator with
4 the use of flashing lights when such operator is driving the wrong way,
5 (B) notifying a law enforcement unit when a wrong-way operator is
6 detected, and (C) broadcasting the presence of a wrong-way operator
7 on electronic message boards along the highway, (2) "law enforcement
8 unit" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-294a of the general
9 statutes, and (3) "highway" has the same meaning as provided in section
10 14-1 of the general statutes.

11 (b) The Department of Transportation shall expand efforts to
12 implement wrong-way driving countermeasures throughout the state.
13 Such efforts shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) The installation
14 of wrong-way driving detection and notification systems on at least one
15 hundred twenty highway exit ramps that the department determines

16 are at high risk for motor vehicle operators driving in the wrong
17 direction; (2) the installation of rumble strips on highway exit ramps in
18 such a manner to cause a tactile vibration and audible rumbling when
19 an operator drives the wrong way on such ramps; and (3) a public
20 awareness campaign to educate the public concerning ways to reduce
21 incidents of operators driving in the wrong direction and actions to take
22 when an operator encounters a motor vehicle being operated in the
23 wrong direction.

24 Sec. 2. Section 14-36f of the general statutes is repealed and the
25 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

26 The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall adopt regulations, in
27 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, governing the
28 establishment, conduct and scope of driver education programs in
29 secondary schools of this state, subject to the requirements of section 14-
30 36e. Such regulations shall (1) permit any local or regional board of
31 education or private secondary school to contract with a licensed
32 drivers' school approved by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for the
33 behind-the-wheel instruction of such driver education program and
34 instruction therein may be given by such school's driving instructors
35 who are licensed by the Department of Motor Vehicles, (2) require that
36 the classroom instruction of any such driver education program include
37 (A) a discussion concerning highway work zone safety and the
38 responsibilities of an operator of a motor vehicle under section 14-212d,
39 and (B) a discussion concerning ways to reduce incidents of operators
40 driving in the wrong direction and actions to take when an operator
41 encounters a motor vehicle being operated in the wrong direction, and
42 (3) except for instruction offered pursuant to section 14-36j, permit a
43 class or classroom instruction to be offered in person in a congregate
44 setting, through distance learning or through a combination of both in-
45 person and distance learning, provided such distance learning has
46 interactive components such as mandatory interactions, participation or
47 testing.

48 Sec. 3. Section 14-78 of the general statutes is repealed and the

49 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

50 The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the
51 provisions of chapter 54, regarding the conduct of drivers' schools and
52 instructor license requirements. Such regulations shall (1) establish the
53 conduct of drivers' schools, including, but not limited to, (A)
54 requirements as to the inspection of the vehicles used by the drivers'
55 schools in the conduct of their business, (B) instructional standards and
56 procedures, including instruction of not less than fifteen minutes
57 concerning the responsibilities of an operator of a motor vehicle under
58 subsection (b) of section 14-223 and the penalty for a violation of the
59 provisions of said subsection, instruction concerning highway work
60 zone safety and the responsibilities of an operator of a motor vehicle
61 under section 14-212d, and instruction concerning ways to reduce
62 incidents of operators driving in the wrong direction and actions to take
63 when an operator encounters a motor vehicle being operated in the
64 wrong direction, (C) the administration of a test at the conclusion of each
65 class, (D) the posting of rates charged for instruction, and (E) the general
66 form in which records concerning persons under instruction and those
67 who have completed their course of instruction shall be kept and, when
68 required, the method of transmission to the commissioner, (2) except as
69 required pursuant to section 14-36j, permit a class or classroom
70 instruction to be offered in person in a congregate setting, through
71 distance learning or through a combination of both in-person and
72 distance learning, provided such distance learning has interactive
73 components such as mandatory interactions, participation or testing,
74 and (3) establish the requirements for a person to receive a license as an
75 instructor in accordance with section 14-73. On and after October 1,
76 2010, the commissioner shall not issue a license that is limited to
77 classroom instruction. Any person who was issued such limited license
78 prior to October 1, 2010, may maintain and renew such license.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	New section
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Sec. 2	October 1, 2023	14-36f
Sec. 3	October 1, 2023	14-78

Statement of Purpose:

To require (1) the Department of Transportation to expand efforts to implement wrong-way driving countermeasures, and (2) driver's education programs to include instruction concerning ways to reduce wrong-way driving incidents and actions to take when an operator encounters a motor vehicle being operated in the wrong direction.

[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.]