



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2001

LCO No. 8688

Offered by:

REP. STONE, 134th Dist.

REP. DARGAN, 115th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6285

File No. 274

Cal. No. 212

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF FLASHING WHITE HEAD LAMPS BY FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL PERSONNEL."

1 In line 1, before "Subsection" insert "Section 1."

2 After line 55, insert the following:

3 "Sec. 2. Section 14-283 of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

5 (a) "Emergency vehicle", as used in this section, means any
6 ambulance or emergency medical service organization vehicle
7 responding to an emergency call, any vehicle used by a fire
8 department or by any officer of a fire department while on the way to
9 a fire or while responding to an emergency call but not while returning
10 from a fire or emergency call, or any state or local police vehicle
11 operated by a police officer or inspector of the Department of Motor
12 Vehicles answering an emergency call or in the pursuit of fleeing law
13 violators.

14 (b) The operator of any emergency vehicle may (1) park or stand
15 such vehicle, irrespective of the provisions of this chapter, (2) proceed
16 past any red light or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing
17 down or stopping to the extent necessary for the safe operation of such
18 vehicle, (3) exceed the posted speed limits or other speed limits
19 imposed by or pursuant to section 14-218a or 14-219 as long as [he]
20 such operator does not endanger life or property by so doing, and (4)
21 disregard statutes, ordinances or regulations governing direction of
22 movement or turning in specific directions.

23 (c) The exemptions herein granted shall apply only when an
24 emergency vehicle is making use of an audible warning signal device,
25 including but not limited to a siren, whistle or bell which meets the
26 requirements of subsection (f) of section 14-80, and visible flashing or
27 revolving lights which meet the requirements of sections 14-96p and
28 14-96q, and to any state or local police vehicle properly and lawfully
29 making use of an audible warning signal device only.

30 (d) The provisions of this section shall not relieve the operator of an
31 emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the
32 safety of all persons and property.

33 (e) Upon the immediate approach of an emergency vehicle making
34 use of such an audible warning signal device and such visible flashing
35 or revolving lights or of any state or local police vehicle properly and
36 lawfully making use of an audible warning signal device only, the
37 operator of every other vehicle in the immediate vicinity shall
38 immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to,
39 the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway clear of any intersection
40 and shall stop and remain in such position until the emergency vehicle
41 has passed, except when otherwise directed by a state or local police
42 officer or [fireman as provided in section 7-313a] a firefighter.

43 (f) Any officer of a fire department may remove, or cause to be
44 removed, any vehicle upon any public or private way which obstructs
45 or retards any fire department, or any officer thereof, in controlling or

46 extinguishing any fire.

47 (g) Any person who wilfully or negligently obstructs or retards any
48 ambulance or emergency medical service organization vehicle while
49 answering any emergency call or taking a patient to a hospital, or any
50 vehicle used by a fire department or any officer or member of a fire
51 department while on the way to a fire, or while responding to an
52 emergency call, or any vehicle used by the state police or any local
53 police department, or any officer of the Division of State Police within
54 the Department of Public Safety or any local police department while
55 on the way to an emergency call or in the pursuit of fleeing law
56 violators, shall be fined not more than [fifty] two hundred dollars or
57 imprisoned not more than seven days or both.

58 (h) Nothing in this section shall be construed as permitting the use
59 of a siren upon any motor vehicle other than an emergency vehicle, as
60 defined in subsection (a) of this section, or a rescue service vehicle
61 which is registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles pursuant to
62 section 19a-181.

63 (i) A police officer may issue a written warning or a summons to the
64 owner of a vehicle based upon an affidavit signed by the operator of
65 an emergency vehicle specifying (1) the license plate number, color
66 and type of any vehicle observed violating any provision of subsection
67 (e) or (g) of this section, and (2) the date, approximate time and
68 location of such violation.

69 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 14-279 of the general statutes is
70 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

71 (a) The operator of any vehicle, [or] motor vehicle, or authorized
72 emergency vehicle, as defined in subdivision (4) of section 14-1, shall
73 immediately bring [his] such vehicle to a stop not less than ten feet
74 from the front when approaching and not less than ten feet from the
75 rear when overtaking or following any registered school bus on any
76 highway or private road or in any parking area or on any school
77 property when such bus is displaying flashing red signal lights, except

78 at the specific direction of a traffic officer. Vehicles so stopped for a
79 school bus shall not proceed until such bus no longer displays flashing
80 red signal lights. At the intersection of two or more highways
81 vehicular turns toward a school bus receiving or discharging
82 passengers are prohibited. The operator of a vehicle upon a highway
83 with separate roadways need not stop upon meeting or passing a
84 school bus which is on a different roadway."