



**House Bill No. 5420**

**Public Act No. 21-61**

**AN ACT CONCERNING DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY AT  
INOPERATIVE TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS.**

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

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

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 Section 14-297 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

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

(1) The following terms shall be construed as they are defined in section 14-1: "Authorized emergency vehicle", "class 1 electric bicycle", "class 2 electric bicycle", "class 3 electric bicycle", "driver", "electric bicycle", "electric foot scooter", "head lamp", "highway", ["intersection"], "limited access highway", "motor vehicle", "number plate", "operator",

**House Bill No. 5420**

"person", "rotary" or "roundabout", "shoulder", "stop", "truck" and "vehicle";

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

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

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

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

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

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

**House Bill No. 5420**

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

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

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

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

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

Approved June 16, 2021