



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 390

LCO No. 2901



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE TRANSPORTATION STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (59) of section 14-1 of the 2022 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

4 (59) "Motor vehicle" means any vehicle propelled or drawn by any
5 nonmuscular power, except aircraft, motor boats, road rollers, baggage
6 trucks used about railroad stations or other mass transit facilities,
7 electric battery-operated wheel chairs when operated by persons with
8 physical disabilities at speeds not exceeding fifteen miles per hour, golf
9 carts operated on highways solely for the purpose of crossing from one
10 part of the golf course to another or operated on state highways, located
11 in municipalities where the traffic authority authorized the operation of
12 golf carts pursuant to section 14-300g, solely for the purpose of crossing
13 such state highway, golf-cart-type vehicles operated on roads or
14 highways on the grounds of state institutions by state employees,
15 agricultural tractors, farm implements, such vehicles as run only on rails

16 or tracks, self-propelled snow plows, snow blowers and lawn mowers,
17 when used for the purposes for which they were designed and operated
18 at speeds not exceeding four miles per hour, whether or not the operator
19 rides on or walks behind such equipment, motor-driven cycles, as
20 defined in section 14-286, special mobile equipment, as defined in
21 section 14-165, mini-motorcycles, as defined in section 14-289j, electric
22 bicycles, electric foot scooters and any other vehicle not suitable for
23 operation on a highway;

24 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2022*) (a) As used in this section, (1)
25 "high occupancy vehicle lane" means a traffic lane reserved for the
26 exclusive use of vehicles with an operator and one or more passengers,
27 (2) "blood transport vehicle" means a motor vehicle owned by a
28 nonprofit general blood banking operation or nonprofit blood collection
29 facility licensed by the state that transports human blood and blood
30 products between collection points and hospitals or storage centers, (3)
31 "emergency response vehicle" means a motor vehicle owned by a
32 nonprofit general blood banking operation that provides disaster relief
33 services, and (4) "human blood and blood products" has the same
34 meaning as provided in section 22a-209b of the general statutes.

35 (b) The Office of the State Traffic Administration may designate lanes
36 on any state highway as a high occupancy vehicle lane and erect or
37 cause to be erected signs identifying any such high occupancy vehicle
38 lane. The office shall permit the operator of a blood transport vehicle or
39 an emergency response vehicle to use any such high occupancy vehicle
40 lane, regardless of the number of passengers in such vehicle, provided
41 the operator (1) displays the logo or emblem of the nonprofit general
42 blood banking operation or nonprofit blood collection facility, as the
43 case may be, on each side of such vehicle, and (2) displays a removable
44 decal or sign on three sides of such vehicle at all times when the blood
45 transport vehicle is engaged in the transport of human blood and blood
46 products between collection points and hospitals or storage centers or
47 when the emergency response vehicle is engaged in disaster relief
48 services.

49 (c) The Office of the State Traffic Administration may adopt
50 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the
51 general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section.

52 Sec. 3. Section 14-12 of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is
53 amended by adding subsection (m) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

54 (NEW) (m) The commissioner shall, upon request, issue a person who
55 registers or has registered a blood transport vehicle or emergency
56 response vehicle, as such terms are defined in section 2 of this act, three
57 removable decals or signs to be used by such person when operating the
58 blood transport vehicle or emergency response vehicle in a high
59 occupancy vehicle lane designated by the Office of the State Traffic
60 Administration pursuant to section 2 of this act.

61 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2024, the
62 Commissioner of Transportation shall complete the installation of
63 wrong-way signs, as described in subdivision (13) of subsection (a) of
64 section 40 of public act 20-1, on exit ramps from interstate highways that
65 are prone to motor vehicle accidents.

66 Sec. 5. Section 13a-98n of the general statutes is repealed and the
67 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

68 (a) The Commissioner of Transportation shall establish a local
69 transportation capital program to provide state funding, in lieu of
70 specific federal funding available, to any municipality or local planning
71 agency for transportation improvements to any state or locally
72 maintained roadway or facility that is deemed eligible for funding
73 under the federal surface transportation [urban program funding] block
74 grant program or its successor program.

75 (b) The commissioner may request the authorization of special tax
76 obligation bonds of the state to establish such state funding. In the
77 absence of state funding in any year, specific and eligible federal
78 transportation funding shall remain available. Such bonds shall mature
79 at such time or times not exceeding twenty years from their respective

80 dates as may be provided in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions
81 of the State Bond Commission authorizing such bonds.

82 (c) The Department of Transportation shall accept applications for
83 such state funding from any eligible recipient, based on project
84 priorities, through the appropriate regional council of governments.
85 Any such state funding shall be provided to the recipient through
86 guidelines developed by the [Department of Transportation]
87 department. The department may delegate to the appropriate regional
88 council of governments, pursuant to a written agreement, the authority
89 to develop and implement one or more transportation improvements.
90 Development and implementation of transportation improvements
91 under this subsection may include, but need not be limited to,
92 designing, acquiring rights-of-way and constructing.

93 (d) Any transportation improvement funded pursuant to the
94 program established in this section [will] shall have a service life of
95 approximately twenty years.

96 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes, this
97 program, when transportation improvements are on a locally owned
98 roadway or facility, shall not be deemed to be a proposed state action,
99 activity or critical activity for the purposes of sections 25-68b to 25-68h,
100 inclusive.

101 Sec. 6. Subdivision (8) of subsection (b) of section 13b-74 of the
102 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
103 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

104 (8) Payment of funds to any municipality or [local planning agency]
105 regional council of governments for transportation improvements
106 pursuant to section 13a-98n, as amended by this act.

107 Sec. 7. Section 13a-175a of the general statutes is repealed and the
108 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

109 (a) [For] Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, for each
110 fiscal year there shall be allocated twelve million five hundred thousand

111 dollars out of the funds appropriated to the Department of
112 Transportation, or from any other source, not otherwise prohibited by
113 law, to be used by the towns for construction, reconstruction,
114 improvement or maintenance of highways, sections of highways,
115 bridges or structures incidental to highways and bridges or the
116 improvement thereof, including the plowing of snow, the sanding of icy
117 pavements, the trimming and removal of trees, the installation,
118 replacement and maintenance of traffic signs, signals and markings,
119 [and] for traffic control and vehicular safety programs, traffic and
120 parking planning and administration, and other purposes and
121 programs related to highways, traffic and parking, [and] for the
122 purposes of providing and operating essential public transportation
123 services and related facilities, and for the purposes of engineering
124 studies and planning services related to efforts regarding flood
125 mitigation and municipal stormwater planning.

126 (b) [Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
127 the] The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in the
128 secretary's discretion, may approve the use of funds by a town for
129 purposes other than those enumerated in [said] subsection (a) of this
130 section.

131 Sec. 8. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Transportation
132 shall complete the rail improvements on the Hartford line in accordance
133 with the five-year transportation capital plan for the state.

134 Sec. 9. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, "microtransit"
135 means transportation by a multipassenger vehicle that uses a digital
136 network or software application service to offer fixed or dynamically
137 allocated routes and schedules in response to individual or aggregate
138 consumer demand.

139 (b) The Commissioner of Transportation shall establish a pilot
140 program to test microtransit services in the state. The commissioner may
141 enter into agreements with third parties to provide such services.

142 (c) Not later than January 1, 2025, the commissioner shall submit a

143 report on the implementation of the pilot program and
 144 recommendations concerning future deployment to the joint standing
 145 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 146 relating to transportation, in accordance with the provisions of section
 147 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	14-1(59)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	14-12
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	13a-98n
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	13b-74(b)(8)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	13a-175a
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To revise the transportation statutes regarding (1) golf carts, (2) the use of high occupancy lanes by blood transport vehicles and emergency response vehicles, (3) the installation of wrong-way signs, (4) the local transportation capital program, (5) town aid road grants, (6) rail improvements on the Hartford line, and (7) a pilot program to test microtransit services.

[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.]