



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

***Raised Bill No. 7132***

LCO No. 5591



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:  
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING NON-SAFETY RELATED TRAFFIC STOPS.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 14-18 of the  
2 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

4 (a) (1) Each motor vehicle for which one number plate has been issued  
5 shall, while in use or operation upon any public highway, display in a  
6 conspicuous place at the rear of such vehicle the number plate. The  
7 commissioner may issue a sticker denoting the expiration date of the  
8 registration. Such sticker shall be displayed in such place on the vehicle  
9 as the commissioner may direct. Such sticker may contain the  
10 corresponding letters and numbers of the registration and number plate  
11 issued by the commissioner.

12 (2) Each motor vehicle for which two number plates have been issued  
13 shall, while in use or operation upon any public highway, display such  
14 number plates in a conspicuous place at (A) the front, and (B) the rear  
15 of such vehicle, [the number plates] which may include against a  
16 vehicle's rear window, provided the numerals and letters on any such

17 number plate are plainly legible. The commissioner may issue a sticker  
18 denoting the expiration date of the registration. Such sticker shall be  
19 displayed in such place on the vehicle as the commissioner may direct.  
20 Such sticker may contain the corresponding letters and numbers of the  
21 number plate issued by the commissioner.

22 (b) Repealed by 1969, P.A. 247, S. 1.

23 (c) Official number plates when displayed upon motor vehicles shall  
24 be [entirely] substantially unobscured and the numerals and letters  
25 [thereon] on such plates shall be plainly legible at all times. Such number  
26 plates shall be horizontal [,] and shall be fastened so as not to swing.  
27 [and, during the time when a motor vehicle is required to display lights,  
28 the rear number plate shall be so illuminated as to be legible at a distance  
29 of fifty feet.] Nothing may be affixed to a motor vehicle or to the official  
30 number plates displayed on such vehicle that obscures or impairs the  
31 visibility of [any information] the numerals and letters on such number  
32 plates. Not more than one number plate shall be displayed on the front  
33 or rear of any motor vehicle in operation upon the public highways of  
34 the state; provided any motor vehicle may, upon permission of the  
35 commissioner, display more than one number plate in front or rear,  
36 subject to such conditions as the commissioner prescribes. If any  
37 number plate supplied by the commissioner is lost, or if the registered  
38 number [thereon] on such plate becomes mutilated or illegible, the  
39 owner of or the person in control of the motor vehicle for which such  
40 number plate was furnished shall immediately place a temporary  
41 number plate bearing said registration number upon such motor  
42 vehicle, which temporary number plate shall conform to the regular  
43 number plate and shall be displayed as nearly as possible as [herein]  
44 provided in this section for such regular number plate; and such owner  
45 shall, within forty-eight hours after such loss or mutilation of the  
46 number plate, give notice thereof to the commissioner and apply for a  
47 new number plate. The commissioner may issue a permit to operate  
48 with such temporary plate and shall supply new number plates upon  
49 payment of the fee therefor as provided in section 14-50a. Upon receipt

50 of such new number plates and new certificate, the remaining old  
51 number plate, if any, and certificate shall be surrendered to the  
52 commissioner. As used in this subsection, "substantially unobscured"  
53 means that the number plate is not significantly blocked or concealed by  
54 an obstacle or obstruction, to an extent that allows for a reasonable  
55 person to read the numerals and letters of such plate.

56 Sec. 2. Section 14-96a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
57 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

58 (a) Every vehicle upon a highway within this state shall display such  
59 lighted lamps and illuminating devices as may be required under the  
60 provisions of this section and sections [14-96a] 14-96b to 14-96aa,  
61 inclusive, (1) at any time from a half-hour after sunset to a half-hour  
62 before sunrise, (2) at any time when, due to insufficient light or  
63 unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons and vehicles on the  
64 highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of five hundred feet  
65 ahead, and (3) at any time during periods of precipitation, including,  
66 but not limited to, periods of snow, rain or fog.

67 (b) Whenever in said sections any requirement is declared as to  
68 distance from which certain lamps and devices shall render objects  
69 visible or within which such lamps or devices shall be visible, such  
70 requirement shall apply during the times stated in subsection (a) of this  
71 section in respect to a vehicle without load when upon a straight, level,  
72 unlighted highway under normal atmospheric conditions unless a  
73 different time or condition is expressly stated.

74 (c) Whenever in said sections any requirement is declared as to the  
75 mounted height of lamps or devices, such requirement shall mean the  
76 height measured from the center of such lamps or devices to the level  
77 ground upon which the vehicle stands when such vehicle is without a  
78 load.

79 (d) Failure to [provide lighted] illuminate lamps and illuminating  
80 devices at such time as required by this section shall be an infraction.

81       (e) To the extent that a violation concerning the number, placement  
82 or intensity of a lamp or illuminating device, or any other technical  
83 specification provided in sections 14-96b to 14-96aa, inclusive,  
84 concerning a lamp or illuminating device would constitute a violation  
85 under this section, such violation shall be enforced under section 14-96b,  
86 14-96c, as amended by this act, 14-96d, 14-96e, 14-96f, 14-96g, 14-96h, 14-  
87 96i, 14-96j, 14-96k, 14-96l, 14-96m, 14-96n, 14-96o, 14-96p, 14-96q, 14-96r,  
88 14-96s, 14-96t, 14-96u, 14-96x, 14-96y, as amended by this act, 14-96z or  
89 14-96aa, and not under this section.

90       Sec. 3. Section 14-96c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
91 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

92       (a) After October 1, 1967, every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer and  
93 pole trailer, and any other vehicle which is being drawn at the end of a  
94 combination of vehicles, shall be equipped with at least two tail lamps  
95 mounted on the rear, which, when lighted as required in subsection (a)  
96 of section 14-96a, as amended by this act, shall emit a red light plainly  
97 visible from a distance of one thousand feet to the rear, except that  
98 passenger cars manufactured or assembled prior to October 1, 1957, and  
99 motorcycles shall have at least one such tail lamp. On a combination of  
100 vehicles, only the tail lamps on the rearmost vehicle need actually be  
101 seen from the distance specified. On vehicles equipped with more than  
102 one tail lamp, the lamps shall be mounted on the same level and as  
103 widely spaced laterally as practicable.

104       (b) Every tail lamp upon every vehicle shall be located at a mounted  
105 height of not more than seventy-two inches nor less than fifteen inches.

106       (c) The rear registration plate shall be so illumined with a white light  
107 as to render it clearly legible from a distance of fifty feet to the rear. Any  
108 tail lamp or tail lamps, together with any separate lamp or lamps for  
109 illuminating the rear registration plate, shall be so wired as to be lighted  
110 whenever the head lamps or auxiliary driving lamps are lighted, except  
111 that any vehicle equipped by the manufacturer with daytime running

112 lamps which meet federal requirements may have such daytime  
113 running lamps illuminated without illumination of the tail lamps or rear  
114 registration plate.

115 (d) Failure to have tail lamps [or failure to illuminate the rear  
116 registration plate] as required in this section shall be an infraction.

117 Sec. 4. Section 14-96y of the general statutes is repealed and the  
118 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

119 (a) At all times specified in subsection (a) of section 14-96a, as  
120 amended by this act, [at least two lighted lamps shall be displayed, one  
121 on each side at the front of every motor vehicle other than a motorcycle]  
122 each motor vehicle shall have at least one functioning head lamp located  
123 at the front of such vehicle, except when such vehicle is parked subject  
124 to the regulations governing lights on parked vehicles.

125 (b) Whenever a motor vehicle equipped with head lamps as [herein]  
126 required by this section is also equipped with any auxiliary lamps or a  
127 spot lamp or any other lamp on the front thereof projecting a beam of  
128 intensity greater than three hundred candlepower, not more than a total  
129 of four of any such lamps on the front of a vehicle shall be lighted at any  
130 one time when upon a highway.

131 (c) Failure to have [lamps] one functioning head lamp as required by  
132 this section shall be an infraction.

133 Sec. 5. Section 14-99f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
134 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

135 (a) Each motor vehicle shall be equipped with a windshield of a type  
136 prescribed by section 14-100 and a windshield cleaner or wiper in  
137 effective working order located directly in front of the operator while in  
138 use on the highway. The windshield shall be reasonably free of defects  
139 and accumulations, inside and out, of snow, ice, condensation and dirt.  
140 The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a motorcycle or a

141 vehicle designed by the manufacturer for nonhighway operation  
142 without a windshield.

143 (b) No person shall operate a motor vehicle required to be equipped  
144 with such a windshield if the windshield is in a condition to interfere  
145 with an unobstructed view of the highway in a manner that significantly  
146 blocks or conceals by use of an obstacle or obstruction to an extent that  
147 would prevent a reasonable person from viewing the highway.

148 (c) No article, device, sticker or ornament shall be attached or affixed  
149 to or hung on or in any motor vehicle in such a manner or location as to  
150 interfere with the operator's unobstructed view of the highway in a  
151 manner that significantly blocks or conceals by use of an obstacle or  
152 obstruction to an extent that would prevent a reasonable person from  
153 viewing the highway or to distract the attention of the operator.

154 (d) Violation of any provision of this section shall be an infraction.

155 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 14-12 of the general statutes is  
156 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
157 *1, 2025*):

158 (a) No motor vehicle shall be operated, towed or parked on any  
159 highway, except as otherwise expressly provided, unless it is registered  
160 with the commissioner, provided any motor vehicle may be towed for  
161 repairs or necessary work if it bears the number plates of a licensed and  
162 registered dealer, manufacturer or repairer and provided any motor  
163 vehicle which is validly registered in another state may, for a period of  
164 ninety days following establishment by the owner of residence in this  
165 state, be operated on any highway without first being registered with  
166 the commissioner. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, (1) a  
167 person commits an infraction if such person (A) registers a motor  
168 vehicle [he or she] such person does not own, or (B) operates, allows the  
169 operation of, parks or allows the parking of an unregistered motor  
170 vehicle on any highway, or (2) a resident of this state who operates or  
171 parks a motor vehicle such resident owns with number plates issued by

172 another state on any highway shall be fined two hundred fifty dollars,  
 173 except that the fine shall be suspended for a first time violator who  
 174 presents proof of registration for the motor vehicle subsequent to the  
 175 violation but prior to the imposition of a fine. If the owner of a motor  
 176 vehicle previously registered with the commissioner, the registration of  
 177 which expired not more than [thirty] sixty days previously, operates,  
 178 allows the operation of, parks or allows that parking of such a motor  
 179 vehicle, such owner shall be fined the amount designated for the  
 180 infraction of failure to renew a registration, but the right to retain his or  
 181 her operator's license shall not be affected. No operator other than the  
 182 owner shall be subject to penalty for the operation or parking of such a  
 183 previously registered motor vehicle. As used in this subsection, the term  
 184 "unregistered motor vehicle" includes any vehicle that is not eligible for  
 185 registration by the commissioner due to the absence of necessary  
 186 equipment or other characteristics of the vehicle that make it unsuitable  
 187 for highway operation, unless the operation of such vehicle is expressly  
 188 permitted by another provision of this chapter or chapter 248.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-18(a) to (c)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-96a
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-96c
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-96y
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-99f
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-12(a)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To clarify and amend certain statutes for traffic stops concerning properly displaying a number plate, lamps and illuminating devices, windshields and registration.

*[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.]*