



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7132

January Session, 2025



***AN ACT CONCERNING NON-SAFETY-RELATED TRAFFIC STOPS
AND DRIVING WHILE CONSUMING CANNABIS.***

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2 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu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22 (b) Repealed by 1969, P.A. 247, S. 1.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 or an electronic device capable of recording data on, or taking a
56 photograph of, a motor vehicle or such motor vehicle's number plate to
57 read the numerals and letters of such plate.

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 Section 14-96a of the general statutes is repealed and the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

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

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

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

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

83 (e) To the extent that a violation concerning the number, placement

84 or intensity of a lamp or illuminating device, or any other technical
 85 specification provided in sections 14-96b to 14-96aa, inclusive,
 86 concerning a lamp or illuminating device would constitute a violation
 87 under this section, such violation shall be enforced under section 14-96b,
 88 14-96c, as amended by this act, 14-96d, 14-96e, 14-96f, 14-96g, 14-96i, 14-
 89 96j, 14-96k, 14-96l, 14-96m, 14-96n, 14-96o, 14-96p, 14-96q, 14-96r, 14-96s,
 90 14-96t, 14-96u, 14-96x, 14-96y, as amended by this act, 14-96z or 14-96aa,
 91 and not under this section.

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

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

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

108 (c) The rear registration plate shall be so illumined with a white light
 109 as to render it clearly legible from a distance of fifty feet to the rear. Any
 110 tail lamp or tail lamps, together with any separate lamp or lamps for
 111 illuminating the rear registration plate, shall be so wired as to be lighted
 112 whenever the head lamps or auxiliary driving lamps are lighted, except
 113 that any vehicle equipped by the manufacturer with daytime running
 114 lamps which meet federal requirements may have such daytime
 115 running lamps illuminated without illumination of the tail lamps or rear

116 registration plate.

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

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

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

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

132 (c) [Failure to have] Any operator of a motor vehicle that does not
133 have at least two lamps as required by this section shall be deemed to
134 have committed an infraction, except that if such motor vehicle has at
135 least one such lamp, such operator shall be issued a warning for
136 defective equipment under the provisions of subsection (c) of section 14-
137 103 for a first offense, and for any subsequent violation of this section,
138 such operator shall be deemed to have committed an infraction.

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

141 (a) Each motor vehicle shall be equipped with a windshield of a type
142 prescribed by section 14-100 and a windshield cleaner or wiper in
143 effective working order located directly in front of the operator while in
144 use on the highway. The windshield shall be reasonably free of defects
145 and accumulations, inside and out, of snow, ice, condensation and dirt.

146 The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a motorcycle or a
147 vehicle designed by the manufacturer for nonhighway operation
148 without a windshield.

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

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

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

161 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 14-12 of the general statutes is
162 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
163 *1, 2025*):

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

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

195 Sec. 7. Section 53a-213a of the general statutes is repealed and the
196 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

197 (a) A person is guilty of smoking, otherwise inhaling or ingesting
198 cannabis, as defined in section 21a-420, while operating a motor vehicle
199 when he or she smokes, otherwise inhales or ingests cannabis, as
200 defined in section 21a-420, while operating a motor vehicle upon a
201 public highway of this state or upon any road of any specially chartered
202 municipal association or of any district organized under the provisions
203 of chapter 105, a purpose of which is the construction and maintenance
204 of roads and sidewalks, or in any parking area for ten cars or more, or
205 upon any private road on which a speed limit has been established in
206 accordance with the provisions of section 14-218a or upon any school
207 property. No person shall be convicted of smoking or otherwise
208 inhaling or ingesting cannabis while operating a motor vehicle and
209 possessing or having under such person's control a controlled substance
210 upon the same transaction. A person may be charged and prosecuted
211 for either or each such offense, a violation of operating a motor vehicle

212 while under the influence of any drug and any other applicable offense
213 upon the same information.

214 (b) Smoking, otherwise inhaling or ingesting cannabis while
215 operating a motor vehicle is a class C misdemeanor.

216 (c) No peace officer shall stop a motor vehicle for a violation of this
217 section if such violation is the sole reason for such stop, unless such
218 officer (1) observes active cannabis consumption by the operator of the
219 motor vehicle, and (2) detects the odor of burnt cannabis.

220 Sec. 8. Section 53a-213b of the general statutes is repealed and the
221 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

222 (a) A person is guilty of smoking or otherwise inhaling or ingesting
223 cannabis, as defined in section 21a-420, in a motor vehicle when he or
224 she smokes or otherwise inhales or ingests cannabis in a motor vehicle
225 that is being operated by another person upon a public highway of this
226 state or upon any road of any specially chartered municipal association
227 or of any district organized under the provisions of chapter 105, a
228 purpose of which is the construction and maintenance of roads and
229 sidewalks, or in any parking area for ten cars or more, or upon any
230 private road on which a speed limit has been established in accordance
231 with the provisions of section 14-218a or upon any school property. No
232 person shall be convicted of smoking or otherwise inhaling or ingesting
233 cannabis as a passenger in a motor vehicle and possessing or having
234 under such person's control a controlled substance upon the same
235 transaction, but such person may be charged and prosecuted for both
236 offenses upon the same information.

237 (b) Smoking or otherwise inhaling or ingesting cannabis in a motor
238 vehicle is a class D misdemeanor.

239 (c) No peace officer shall stop a motor vehicle for a violation of this
240 section if such violation is the sole reason for such stop, unless such
241 officer (1) observes active cannabis consumption by the operator of the
242 motor vehicle, and (2) detects the odor of burnt cannabis.

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)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	53a-213a
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	53a-213b

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*