



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

***Raised Bill No. 7204***

LCO No. 5926



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by  
(PS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING LIGHTS ON VEHICLES, PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF CERTAIN STATUTES, STOPS AND SEARCHES, A PHLEBOTOMY PROGRAM STUDY, INSPECTIONS OF CERTAIN VEHICLES, TRAFFIC SAFETY CORRIDORS, A PILOT PROGRAM TO EQUIP POLICE VEHICLES WITH CERTAIN DEVICES AND POLICE REVIEW OF CERTAIN RECORDINGS.***

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

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 Section 14-96q of the general statutes is repealed and the  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

3 (a) A permit is required for the use of colored or flashing lights on all  
4 motor vehicles or equipment specified in this section except: (1) Motor  
5 vehicles not registered in this state used for transporting or escorting  
6 any vehicle or load, or combinations thereof, which is either oversize or  
7 overweight, or both, when operating under a permit issued by the  
8 Commissioner of Transportation pursuant to section 14-270; [or] (2)  
9 motor vehicles or equipment that are (A) equipped with lights in  
10 accordance with this section, (B) owned or leased by the federal  
11 government, the state of Connecticut, or any other state, commonwealth  
12 or local municipality, and (C) registered to such governmental entity; or

13 (3) wreckers registered pursuant to section 14-66 that are equipped with  
14 lights in accordance with subsection (k) of this section. When used in  
15 this section, the term "flashing" shall be considered to include the term  
16 "revolving".

17 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, or such other person  
18 specifically identified in this section, may issue permits for the use of  
19 colored or flashing lights on vehicles in accordance with this section, at  
20 the commissioner's or such person's discretion. Any person, firm or  
21 corporation other than the state or any metropolitan district, town, city  
22 or borough shall pay an annual permit fee of twenty dollars to the  
23 commissioner for each such vehicle. Such fee shall apply only to permits  
24 issued by the commissioner.

25 (c) A [flashing] blue light or lights, including flashing blue lights, may  
26 be used on a motor vehicle operated by an active member of a volunteer  
27 fire department or company or an active member of an organized civil  
28 preparedness auxiliary fire company who has been issued a permit by  
29 the chief executive officer of such department or company to use such a  
30 [flashing] blue light or lights while on the way to or at the scene of a fire  
31 or other emergency requiring such member's services. Such permit shall  
32 be on a form provided by the commissioner and may be revoked by such  
33 chief executive officer or such chief executive officer's successor. The  
34 chief executive officer of each volunteer fire department or company or  
35 organized civil preparedness auxiliary fire company shall keep on file,  
36 on forms provided by the commissioner, the names and addresses of  
37 members who have been authorized to use a [flashing] blue light or  
38 lights as provided in this subsection. Such listing shall also designate the  
39 registration number of the motor vehicle on which an authorized [a  
40 flashing] blue light or lights are to be used.

41 (d) A flashing green or blue light or lights may be used on a motor  
42 vehicle operated by an active member of a volunteer ambulance  
43 association or company who has been issued a permit by the chief  
44 executive officer of such association or company to use such a light or

45 lights, while on the way to or at the scene of an emergency requiring  
46 such member's services. Such permit shall be on a form provided by the  
47 commissioner and may be revoked by such chief executive officer or  
48 such chief executive officer's successor. The chief executive officer of  
49 each volunteer ambulance association or company shall keep on file, on  
50 forms provided by the commissioner, the names and addresses of  
51 members who have been authorized to use a flashing green or blue light  
52 or lights as provided in this subsection. Such listing shall also designate  
53 the registration number of the motor vehicle on which the authorized  
54 flashing green or blue light or lights are to be used.

55 (e) The commissioner may issue a permit for a [flashing] red light or  
56 lights, including flashing red lights, which may be used on a motor  
57 vehicle or equipment (1) used by paid fire chiefs and their deputies and  
58 assistants, up to a total of five individuals per department, (2) used by  
59 volunteer fire chiefs and their deputies and assistants, up to a total of  
60 five individuals per department, (3) used by members of the fire police  
61 on a stationary vehicle as a warning signal during traffic directing  
62 operations at the scene of a fire or emergency, (4) used by chief executive  
63 officers of emergency medical service organizations, as defined in  
64 section 19a-175, the first or second deputies, or if there are no deputies,  
65 the first or second assistants, of such an organization that is a municipal  
66 or volunteer or licensed organization, (5) used by local fire marshals, (6)  
67 used by directors of emergency management, or (7) used by a constable,  
68 appointed pursuant to an ordinance authorized by section 9-185 or  
69 elected pursuant to section 9-200, on a stationary vehicle as a warning  
70 signal during traffic directing operations.

71 (f) The commissioner may issue a permit for a yellow or amber light  
72 or lights, including a flashing yellow or amber light or lights, which may  
73 be used on motor vehicles or equipment that are (1) specified in  
74 subsection (e) of this section, (2) maintenance vehicles, or (3) vehicles  
75 transporting or escorting any vehicle or load or combinations thereof,  
76 which is or are either oversize or overweight, or both, and being  
77 operated or traveling under a permit issued by the Commissioner of

78 Transportation pursuant to section 14-270. A yellow or amber light or  
79 lights, including a flashing yellow or amber light or lights, may be used  
80 without obtaining a permit from the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles  
81 [on wreckers registered pursuant to section 14-66,] on vehicles of  
82 carriers in rural mail delivery service or on vehicles operated by  
83 construction inspectors employed by the state of Connecticut,  
84 authorized by the Commissioner of Transportation, used during the  
85 performance of inspections on behalf of the state. The Commissioner of  
86 Transportation shall maintain a list of such authorized construction  
87 inspectors, including the name and address of each inspector and the  
88 registration number for each vehicle on which the light or lights are to  
89 be used.

90 (g) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may issue a permit for a  
91 white light or lights, including a flashing white light or lights, which  
92 may be used on a motor vehicle or equipment as specified in subdivision  
93 (1), (2), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (e) of this section. A vehicle being  
94 operated by a member of a volunteer fire department or company or a  
95 volunteer emergency medical technician may use flashing white head  
96 lamps, provided such member or emergency medical technician is on  
97 the way to the scene of a fire or medical emergency and has received  
98 written authorization from the chief law enforcement officer of the  
99 municipality to use such head lamps. Such head lamps shall only be  
100 used within the municipality granting such authorization or from a  
101 personal residence or place of employment, if located in an adjoining  
102 municipality. Such authorization may be revoked for use of such head  
103 lamps in violation of this subdivision. For the purposes of this  
104 subsection, the term "flashing white lights" shall not include the  
105 simultaneous flashing of head lamps.

106 (h) The commissioner may issue a permit for emergency vehicles, as  
107 defined in subsection (a) of section 14-283, to use a blue, red, yellow, or  
108 white light or lights, including a flashing light or lights or any  
109 combination thereof. [, except as provided in subsection (k) of this  
110 section.]

111 (i) The commissioner may issue a permit for ambulances, as defined  
112 in section 19a-175, which may, in addition to the flashing light or lights  
113 allowed in subsection (h) of this section, use flashing lights of other  
114 colors specified by federal requirements for the manufacture of an  
115 ambulance. If the commissioner issues a permit for any ambulance, such  
116 permit shall be issued at the time of registration and upon each renewal  
117 of such registration.

118 (j) A green, yellow or amber light or lights, including a flashing green,  
119 yellow or amber light or lights or any combination thereof, may be used  
120 on a maintenance vehicle owned and operated by the Department of  
121 Transportation.

122 (k) [No person, other than a police officer or inspector of the  
123 Department of Motor Vehicles operating a state or local police vehicle,  
124 shall operate a motor vehicle displaying a steady blue or steady red  
125 illuminated light or both steady blue and steady red illuminated lights  
126 that are visible externally from the front of the vehicle] A yellow or  
127 amber light or lights, including a flashing yellow or amber light or  
128 lights, or any combination thereof, or a steady blue light or lights may  
129 be used on a wrecker registered pursuant to section 14-66 while such  
130 wrecker is stationary.

131 (l) Use of colored and flashing lights except as authorized by this  
132 section shall be an infraction.

133 Sec. 2. Subsections (f) and (g) of section 14-99g of the general statutes  
134 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
135 *October 1, 2025*):

136 (f) Any person who violates any provision of subsections (b) to (e),  
137 inclusive, of this section shall be [deemed to have committed an  
138 infraction] subject to the penalties provided in subsection (b) of section  
139 14-222 for each offense. Any person who violates any provision of  
140 subsection (b) of this section shall remove such object or material which  
141 obstructs [his] such person's clear and full view of the road and report

142 within sixty days to the police department which issued the [infractions  
143 complaint] summons to present [his] such person's vehicle for  
144 inspection and to demonstrate compliance with the provisions of this  
145 section. If such person fails to report to such police department and is  
146 cited for a subsequent violation of this section, [his] such person's  
147 vehicle shall be impounded after notice and opportunity for hearing.

148 (g) Any person owning a vehicle having a window which has been  
149 tinted or darkened with any tinted material after factory delivery, shall  
150 present such vehicle to the Department of Motor Vehicles, by July 1,  
151 [1996] 2026, to receive a sticker for any tinted or darkened window to  
152 indicate such tinting or darkening is in compliance with this section.  
153 Any person operating a motor vehicle, on or after July 1, [1996] 2026, in  
154 violation of this subsection shall be [deemed to have committed an  
155 infraction] subject to the penalties provided in subsection (b) of section  
156 14-222.

157 Sec. 3. Section 14-222a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
158 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

159 Any person who, in consequence of the negligent operation of a  
160 motor vehicle, causes the death of another person shall be [fined not  
161 more than three thousand five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more  
162 than three years, or both] guilty of a class C felony for which three years  
163 of the sentence imposed may not be suspended or reduced by the court.

164 Sec. 4. Section 14-223 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
165 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

166 (a) Whenever the operator of any motor vehicle fails promptly to  
167 bring [his] such operator's motor vehicle to a full stop upon the signal  
168 of any officer in uniform or prominently displaying the officer's badge  
169 of [his] office, or disobeys the direction of such officer with relation to  
170 the operation of [his] such operator's motor vehicle, [he] such operator  
171 shall be [deemed to have committed an infraction and be fined fifty  
172 dollars] guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

173 (b) No person operating a motor vehicle, when signaled to stop by an  
 174 officer in a police vehicle using an audible signal device or flashing or  
 175 revolving lights, shall increase the speed of the motor vehicle in an  
 176 attempt to escape or elude such police officer. Any person who violates  
 177 this subsection shall be guilty of a class [A misdemeanor] D felony,  
 178 except that, if such violation causes the death or serious physical injury,  
 179 as defined in section 53a-3, of another person, such person shall be guilty  
 180 of a class C felony, and shall have such person's motor vehicle operator's  
 181 license suspended for one year for the first offense, except that the  
 182 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may, after a hearing, as provided for  
 183 in subsection (i) of section 14-111, and upon a showing of compelling  
 184 mitigating circumstances, reinstate such person's license before the  
 185 expiration of such one-year period. For any subsequent offense such  
 186 person shall be guilty of a class C felony, except that if any prior offense  
 187 by such person under this subsection caused, and such subsequent  
 188 offense causes, the death or serious physical injury, as defined in section  
 189 53a-3, of another person, such person shall be guilty of a class C felony  
 190 for which one year of the sentence imposed may not be suspended or  
 191 reduced by the court, and shall have such person's motor vehicle  
 192 operator's license suspended for not less than eighteen months nor more  
 193 than two years, except that said commissioner may, after a hearing, as  
 194 provided for in subsection (i) of section 14-111, and upon a showing of  
 195 compelling mitigating circumstances, reinstate such person's license  
 196 before such period.

197 Sec. 5. Subsections (f) and (g) of section 14-224 of the general statutes  
 198 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
 199 *October 1, 2025*):

200 (f) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) or  
 201 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section shall be guilty of a class  
 202 B felony for which five years of the sentence imposed may not be  
 203 suspended or reduced by the court.

204 (g) (1) Any person who violates the provisions of subdivision (2) of

205 subsection (b) of this section shall be guilty of a class D felony for which  
206 two years of the sentence imposed may not be suspended or reduced by  
207 the court.

208 (2) Any person who violates the provisions of subdivision (3) of  
209 subsection (b) of this section or subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this  
210 section shall be guilty of a (A) class A misdemeanor for a first offense,  
211 and (B) class D felony for any subsequent offense.

212 (3) Any person who violates the provisions of subdivision (2) of  
213 subsection (c) of this section shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

214 Sec. 6. Section 53a-57 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
215 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

216 (a) A person is guilty of misconduct with a motor vehicle when, with  
217 criminal negligence in the operation of a motor vehicle, [he] such person  
218 causes the death of another person.

219 (b) Misconduct with a motor vehicle is a class [D felony] C felony for  
220 which (1) five years of the sentence imposed may not be suspended or  
221 reduced by the court, or (2) if such person causes the death of a police  
222 officer, as defined in section 7-294a, ten years of the sentence imposed  
223 may not be suspended or reduced by the court.

224 Sec. 7. Section 54-33p of the general statutes is repealed and the  
225 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

226 [(a) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the existence  
227 of any of the following circumstances shall not constitute in part or in  
228 whole probable cause or reasonable suspicion and shall not be used as  
229 a basis to support any stop or search of a person or motor vehicle:

230 (1) The odor of cannabis or burnt cannabis;

231 (2) The possession of or the suspicion of possession of cannabis  
232 without evidence that the quantity of cannabis is or suspected to be in



233 excess of five ounces of cannabis plant material, as defined in section  
234 21a-279a, or an equivalent amount of cannabis products or a  
235 combination of cannabis and cannabis products, as provided in  
236 subsection (i) of section 21a-279a; or

237 (3) The presence of cash or currency in proximity to cannabis without  
238 evidence that such cash or currency exceeds five hundred dollars.

239 (b) Any evidence discovered as a result of any stop or search  
240 conducted in violation of this section shall not be admissible in evidence  
241 in any trial, hearing or other proceeding in a court of this state.

242 (c)] A law enforcement official may conduct a test for impairment  
243 based on the odor of cannabis or burnt cannabis if such official  
244 reasonably suspects the operator of violating section 14-227a, 14-227m  
245 or 14-227n.

246 [(d) The provisions of this section shall not apply to a probation  
247 officer supervising a probationer who, as a condition of probation, is  
248 prohibited from using or possessing cannabis.]

249 Sec. 8. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioners of Emergency  
250 Services and Public Protection and Transportation shall jointly conduct  
251 a study on the feasibility of implementing a permanent state-wide law  
252 enforcement phlebotomy program to combat impaired driving. Such  
253 study shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of (1)  
254 best practices for making phlebotomy training available to police  
255 officers, (2) phlebotomy programs and procedures utilized by law  
256 enforcement units in other states, and (3) best practices for providing  
257 educational materials to and answering questions from police officers  
258 regarding phlebotomy training and police liability. Not later than  
259 January 1, 2026, the Commissioners of Emergency Services and Public  
260 Protection and Transportation shall submit a report, in accordance with  
261 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the results of  
262 the study and any recommendations for legislation to the joint standing  
263 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

264 relating to public safety and security and transportation.

265       Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) For purposes of this section,  
266 "law enforcement unit" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-  
267 294a of the general statutes. Not later than July 1, 2026, and annually  
268 thereafter, the Department of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the  
269 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, shall conduct  
270 safety inspections of vehicles used by law enforcement units in the state  
271 for the purpose of ensuring the safety and functionality of such vehicles.  
272 The department shall randomly select law enforcement units for such  
273 inspections. Upon the completion of each such inspection, the  
274 department shall provide a report on the results of the inspection to the  
275 law enforcement unit whose vehicles were inspected.

276       Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) For purposes of this  
277 subsection, "highway" has the same meaning as provided in section 14-  
278 1 of the general statutes. The Commissioner of Transportation, in  
279 consultation with the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public  
280 Protection, shall establish a traffic safety corridor program to (1)  
281 designate portions of a highway that have high rates of motor vehicle  
282 accidents as traffic safety corridors, and (2) coordinate motor vehicle  
283 enforcement in such traffic safety corridors.

284       (b) The Superior Court shall impose an additional fee equivalent to  
285 one hundred per cent of the fine established or imposed for the violation  
286 of the provisions of section 14-213, 14-213b, 14-214, 14-215, 14-216, 14-  
287 218a, 14-219, 14-220, 14-221, 14-222, 14-222a, as amended by this act, 14-  
288 223, as amended by this act, 14-224, as amended by this act, 14-225, 14-  
289 227a, 14-227m, 14-227n, 14-230, 14-230a, 14-231, 14-232, 14-233, 14-235,  
290 14-236, 14-237, 14-238, 14-238a, 14-239, 14-240, 14-240a, 14-241, 14-242,  
291 14-243, 14-244, 14-245, 14-246a, 14-247, 14-247a, 14-248a, 14-249, 14-250,  
292 14-250a, 14-257, 14-261, 14-266, 14-271, 14-273, 14-279, 14-281a,  
293 subsection (e) or (h) of section 14-283, section 14-289a, 14-289b or 14-  
294 296aa of the general statutes for any such violation committed in a traffic  
295 safety corridor.

296 (c) The Department of Transportation shall post a sign at the  
297 beginning of each traffic safety corridor that shall read as follows:  
298 "TRAFFIC SAFETY CORRIDOR FINES DOUBLED", and at the end of  
299 such corridor that shall read as follows: "END TRAFFIC SAFETY  
300 CORRIDOR".

301 (d) The Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency  
302 Services and Public Protection shall enhance the division's law  
303 enforcement efforts in each traffic safety corridor.

304 Sec. 11. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than October 1, 2025, the  
305 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall establish  
306 a one-year pilot program to allow three municipal police departments  
307 to install a device on such departments' police vehicles that permits a  
308 police officer to launch a global positioning system onto another vehicle.  
309 The department may provide financial assistance in the form of grants-  
310 in-aid to implement such program.

311 (b) Each police department that participates in the program shall  
312 submit a report regarding the utilization of such devices to the  
313 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Not later than  
314 January 1, 2027, the department shall submit a report, in accordance  
315 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint  
316 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
317 matters relating to public safety and the judiciary. Such report shall  
318 include a summary of the results of the pilot program and any  
319 recommendations concerning the future utilization of such devices.

320 Sec. 12. Subsection (f) of section 29-6d of the general statutes is  
321 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
322 *1, 2025*):

323 (f) (1) If a police officer is giving a formal statement [about the use of  
324 force] regarding an incident or if a police officer is the subject of a  
325 disciplinary investigation in which a recording from body-worn  
326 recording equipment or a dashboard camera is being considered as part

327 of a review of an incident, the officer shall have the right to review (A)  
328 such recording in the presence of the officer's attorney or labor  
329 representative, and (B) recordings from other body-worn recording  
330 equipment capturing the officer's image or voice during the incident.  
331 Not later than forty-eight hours following an officer's review of a  
332 recording under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, or if the officer  
333 does not review the recording, not later than ninety-six hours following  
334 the initiation of such disciplinary investigation, whichever is earlier,  
335 such recording shall be disclosed, upon request, to the public, subject to  
336 the provisions of subsection (g) of this section. Public disclosure may be  
337 delayed if the officer, due to a medical or physical response or an acute  
338 psychological stress response to the incident, is not reasonably able to  
339 review a recording under this subdivision, but in no event shall  
340 disclosure be delayed more than one hundred forty-four hours  
341 following the recorded event.

342 (2) If a request is made for public disclosure of a recording from body-  
343 worn recording equipment or a dashboard camera of an incident about  
344 which (A) a police officer has not been asked to give a formal statement  
345 about the [alleged use of force] incident, or (B) a disciplinary  
346 investigation has not been initiated, any police officer whose image or  
347 voice is captured on the recording shall have the right to review such  
348 recording in the presence of the officer's attorney or labor  
349 representative. Not later than forty-eight hours following an officer's  
350 review of a recording under this subdivision, or if the officer does not  
351 review the recording, not later than ninety-six hours following the  
352 request for disclosure, whichever is earlier, such recording shall be  
353 disclosed to the public, subject to the provisions of subsection (g) of this  
354 section. Public disclosure may be delayed if the officer, due to a medical  
355 or physical response or an acute psychological stress response to the  
356 incident, is not reasonably able to review a recording under this  
357 subdivision, but in no event shall disclosure be delayed more than one  
358 hundred forty-four hours following the recorded event.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-96q
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-99g(f) and (g)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-222a
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-223
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-224(f) and (g)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	53a-57
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	54-33p
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	29-6d(f)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) permit certain first responders to use steady blue or red lights and wreckers to use steady blue lights when stationary, (2) modify penalties for violations of certain statutes relating to motor vehicles, (3) eliminate certain statutory provisions relating to cannabis and stops and searches, (4) study the feasibility of a permanent law enforcement phlebotomy program, (5) require safety inspections of vehicles used by law enforcement units, (6) establish a traffic safety corridor program, (7) establish a program to equip police vehicles with a device that is capable of launching a global positioning system onto another vehicle, and (8) modify statutory provisions concerning police officer review of certain recordings by substituting references to "use of force" with "incident".

*[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.]*