



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7204

January Session, 2025



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 AND A PILOT PROGRAM TO EQUIP POLICE VEHICLES WITH CERTAIN DEVICES.

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 Section 14-96q of the general statutes is repealed and the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.

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

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

PS Joint Favorable Subst.