



Substitute House Bill No. 7132

Public Act No. 25-19

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

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

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 Subsections (a) to (c), inclusive, of section 14-18 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

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

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

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

(b) Repealed by 1969, P.A. 247, S. 1.

(c) Official number plates when displayed upon motor vehicles shall be [entirely] substantially unobscured and the numerals and letters [thereon] on such plates shall be plainly legible at all times. Such number plates shall be horizontal [,] and shall be fastened so as not to swing. [and, during the time when a motor vehicle is required to display lights, the rear number plate shall be so illuminated as to be legible at a distance of fifty feet.] Nothing may be affixed to a motor vehicle or to the official number plates displayed on such vehicle that obscures or impairs the visibility of [any information] the numerals and letters on such number plates. Not more than one number plate shall be displayed on the front or rear of any motor vehicle in operation upon the public highways of the state; provided any motor vehicle may, upon permission of the commissioner, display more than one number plate in front or rear, subject to such conditions as the commissioner prescribes. If any number plate supplied by the commissioner is lost, or if the registered number [thereon] on such plate becomes mutilated or illegible, the owner of or the person in control of the motor vehicle for which such number plate was furnished shall immediately place a temporary number plate bearing said registration number upon such motor vehicle, which temporary number plate shall conform to the regular number plate and shall be displayed as nearly as possible as [herein] provided in this section for such regular number plate; and such owner shall, within forty-eight hours after such loss or mutilation of the number plate, give notice thereof to the commissioner and apply for a new number plate. The commissioner may issue a permit to operate

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with such temporary plate and shall supply new number plates upon payment of the fee therefor as provided in section 14-50a. Upon receipt of such new number plates and new certificate, the remaining old number plate, if any, and certificate shall be surrendered to the commissioner. As used in this subsection, "substantially unobscured" means that the number plate is not significantly blocked or concealed by an obstacle or obstruction, to an extent that allows for a reasonable person or an electronic device capable of recording data on, or taking a photograph of, a motor vehicle or such motor vehicle's number plate to read the numerals and letters of such plate.

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

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

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

(c) Whenever in said sections any requirement is declared as to the mounted height of lamps or devices, such requirement shall mean the

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height measured from the center of such lamps or devices to the level ground upon which the vehicle stands when such vehicle is without a load.

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

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

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

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

(b) Every tail lamp upon every vehicle shall be located at a mounted

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height of not more than seventy-two inches nor less than fifteen inches.

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

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

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

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

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

(c) [Failure to have] Any operator of a motor vehicle that does not have at least two lamps as required by this section shall be deemed to have committed an infraction, except that if such motor vehicle has at least one such lamp, such operator shall be issued a warning for

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defective equipment under the provisions of subsection (c) of section 14-103 for a first offense, and for any subsequent violation of this section, such operator shall be deemed to have committed an infraction.

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

(a) Each motor vehicle shall be equipped with a windshield of a type prescribed by section 14-100 and a windshield cleaner or wiper in effective working order located directly in front of the operator while in use on the highway. The windshield shall be reasonably free of defects and accumulations, inside and out, of snow, ice, condensation and dirt. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to a motorcycle or a vehicle designed by the manufacturer for nonhighway operation without a windshield.

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

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

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

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

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(a) No motor vehicle shall be operated, towed or parked on any highway, except as otherwise expressly provided, unless it is registered with the commissioner, provided any motor vehicle may be towed for repairs or necessary work if it bears the number plates of a licensed and registered dealer, manufacturer or repairer and provided any motor vehicle which is validly registered in another state may, for a period of ninety days following establishment by the owner of residence in this state, be operated on any highway without first being registered with the commissioner. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, (1) a person commits an infraction if such person (A) registers a motor vehicle [he or she] such person does not own, or (B) operates, allows the operation of, parks or allows the parking of an unregistered motor vehicle on any highway, or (2) a resident of this state who operates or parks a motor vehicle such resident owns with number plates issued by another state on any highway shall be fined two hundred fifty dollars, except that the fine shall be suspended for a first time violator who presents proof of registration for the motor vehicle subsequent to the violation but prior to the imposition of a fine. If the owner of a motor vehicle previously registered with the commissioner, the registration of which expired not more than [thirty] sixty days previously, operates, allows the operation of, parks or allows that parking of such a motor vehicle, such owner shall be fined the amount designated for the infraction of failure to renew a registration, but the right to retain his or her operator's license shall not be affected. No operator other than the owner shall be subject to penalty for the operation or parking of such a previously registered motor vehicle. As used in this subsection, the term "unregistered motor vehicle" includes any vehicle that is not eligible for registration by the commissioner due to the absence of necessary equipment or other characteristics of the vehicle that make it unsuitable for highway operation, unless the operation of such vehicle is expressly permitted by another provision of this chapter or chapter 248.

Sec. 7. Section 53a-213a of the general statutes is repealed and the

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following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

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

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

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

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

(a) A person is guilty of smoking or otherwise inhaling or ingesting cannabis, as defined in section 21a-420, in a motor vehicle when he or she smokes or otherwise inhales or ingests cannabis in a motor vehicle

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that is being operated by another person upon a public highway of this state or upon any road of any specially chartered municipal association or of any district organized under the provisions of chapter 105, a purpose of which is the construction and maintenance of roads and sidewalks, or in any parking area for ten cars or more, or upon any private road on which a speed limit has been established in accordance with the provisions of section 14-218a or upon any school property. No person shall be convicted of smoking or otherwise inhaling or ingesting cannabis as a passenger in a motor vehicle and possessing or having under such person's control a controlled substance upon the same transaction, but such person may be charged and prosecuted for both offenses upon the same information.

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

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

Sec. 9. Section 14-222 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon any public highway of the state, or any road of any specially chartered municipal association or of any district organized under the provisions of chapter 105, a purpose of which is the construction and maintenance of roads and sidewalks, or in any parking area for ten cars or more or upon any private road on which a speed limit has been established in accordance with the provisions of section 14-218a or section 14-307a or upon any school property recklessly, having regard to the width, traffic and use of such highway, road, school property or parking area, the intersection of streets and the weather conditions. The operation of a motor vehicle

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upon any such highway, road or parking area for ten cars or more at such a rate of speed as to endanger the life of any person other than the operator of such motor vehicle, or the operation, downgrade, upon any highway, of any motor vehicle with a commercial registration with the clutch or gears disengaged, or the operation knowingly of a motor vehicle with defective mechanism, shall constitute a violation of the provisions of this [section] subsection. The operation of a motor vehicle upon any such highway, road or parking area for ten cars or more at a rate of speed greater than eighty-five miles per hour but not greater than one hundred miles per hour shall constitute a violation of the provisions of this [section] subsection.

[(b)] (2) Any person who violates any provision of [this section] subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than three hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days or be both fined and imprisoned for the first offense and for each subsequent offense shall be fined not more than six hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than one year or be both fined and imprisoned.

(b) (1) No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon any public highway of the state, or any road of any specially chartered municipal association or of any district organized under the provisions of chapter 105, a purpose of which is the construction and maintenance of roads and sidewalks, or in any parking area for ten cars or more or upon any private road on which a speed limit has been established in accordance with the provisions of section 14-218a or 14-307a or upon any school property at a rate of speed greater than one hundred miles per hour.

(2) Any person who violates subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be fined not less than two hundred dollars nor more than six hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days or be both fined and imprisoned for the first offense and for each subsequent offense shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than

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one year or be both fined and imprisoned.

(3) Any police officer who arrests a person for a violation of subdivision (1) of this subsection, who has previously been convicted of a violation of subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall cause the motor vehicle such person was operating at the time of the current offense to be impounded for a period of forty-eight hours after such arrest. The owner of such motor vehicle may reclaim such motor vehicle after the expiration of such forty-eight-hour period upon payment of all towing and storage costs.

(c) No person shall be subject to prosecution because of the same offense for a violation of both (1) subsection (a) or (b) of this section, and (2) subsection (a) of section 14-219.

Sec. 10. Subsection (d) of section 14-219 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(d) No person shall be subject to prosecution because of the same offense for a violation of both (1) subsection (a) of this section, and (2) subsection (a) or (b) of section 14-222, as amended by this act. [because of the same offense.]

Sec. 11. Section 14-81b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

The term "brake drum", as used in this section, means the individual cupped metal drums to which motor vehicle wheels are each attached and against whose interior surface, brake shoe pressure is applied to effect stopping, holding or control of forward or backward vehicle movement. The term "brake disc" as used in this section, means the parallel faced circular rotational member to which motor vehicle wheels are each attached and against whose exterior surface, brake lining pressure is applied to effect stopping, holding or control of forward or

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backward movement. No person, firm or corporation shall service, turn, grind, install, sell, give or offer for sale for passenger or commercial motor vehicle use any used brake drum or brake disc which exceeds wear limits established in accordance with regulations adopted by the commissioner. Any person, firm or corporation which performs or permits any violation of this section shall be subject to the penalties provided in subsection [(b)] (a) of section 14-222, as amended by this act.

Sec. 12. Subsection (b) of section 14-111 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(b) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) or (3) of this subsection, whenever the holder of any motor vehicle operator's license has been convicted or has forfeited any bond taken or has received a suspended judgment or sentence for any of the following violations, the commissioner shall, without hearing, suspend such person's operator's license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this state as follows: For a first violation of subsection (a) or subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 14-224 or section 14-110, 14-215 or 53a-119b, for a period of not less than one year and, for a subsequent violation thereof, for a period of not less than two years; for a violation of [subsection (a) of] section 14-222, as amended by this act, or subsection (c) of section 14-224, for a period of not less than thirty days or more than ninety days and, for a subsequent violation thereof, for a period of not less than ninety days; for a violation of subdivision (2) or (3) of subsection (b) of section 14-224, for a period of not less than ninety days and for a subsequent violation thereof, for a period of not less than one year; for a first violation of subsection (b), (d) or (e) of section 14-147, for a period of not less than ninety days and, for a subsequent violation thereof, for a period of not less than five years; for a first violation of subsection (c) of section 14-147, for a period of not less than thirty days and, for a subsequent violation thereof, for a period of not less than one year.

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(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 14-111b and except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, whenever the holder of any motor vehicle operator's license or youth instruction permit who is less than eighteen years of age or whenever a person who does not hold an operator's license who is less than eighteen years of age has been convicted or has forfeited any bond taken or has received a suspended judgment or sentence for any of the following violations, the commissioner shall suspend such person's operator's license or privilege to obtain an operator's license as follows: For a first violation of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 14-219 or subdivision (4) of subsection (b) of section 14-219, for a period of sixty days and, for a second violation thereof, for a period of ninety days and, for a third or subsequent violation thereof, for a period of six months; for a first violation of [subsection (a) of] section 14-222, as amended by this act, for a period of six months and, for a subsequent violation thereof, for a period of one year; for a violation of subsection (c) of section 14-224, for a period of six months and, for a subsequent violation thereof, for a period of one year; for a first violation of section 14-296aa, for a period of thirty days and, for a second violation thereof, for a period of ninety days and, for a third or subsequent violation thereof, for a period of six months.

(3) The commissioner shall suspend the motor vehicle operator's license of any youth adjudged a youthful offender for a violation of section 14-215 or 14-222, as amended by this act, subsection (b) of section 14-223 or subdivision (2) or (3) of subsection (b) or subsection (c) of section 14-224 for six months for a first offense and one year for a second or subsequent offense.

(4) Whenever any person who has not been issued a motor vehicle operator's license under section 14-36 is convicted of a second or subsequent violation of subsection (a) of section 14-36: (A) The commissioner shall suspend such person's privilege to operate a motor

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vehicle, (B) such suspension shall remain in effect for a period of ninety days, and (C) the commissioner shall not issue an operator's license to such person under section 14-36 until such period of suspension has expired and all applicable requirements for such license have been satisfied by such person.

Sec. 13. Section 14-219b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

Nothing in section 14-218a [, subsection (a) of section] or 14-222, as amended by this act, or subsection (a) of section 14-227a shall be construed to impose any liability upon any municipality as a result of its establishing a speed limit upon any private road within its jurisdiction as provided by section 14-218a.

Sec. 14. Section 54-1q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

The court shall not accept a plea of guilty or nolo contendere from a person in a proceeding with respect to a violation of section 14-110, subsection (b), (c), (d) or (e) of section 14-147, section 14-215, [subsection (a) of] section 14-222, as amended by this act, subsection (a) or (b) of section 14-224 or section 53a-119b unless the court advises such person that conviction of the offense for which such person has been charged may have the consequence of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles suspending such person's motor vehicle operator's license.

Governor's Action:
Approved June 9, 2025