



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 9972



Offered by:  
REP. HOWARD, 43<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 7160

File No. 567

Cal. No. 352

(As Amended)

**"AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND CONCERNING PENALTIES FOR OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE AND VESSEL WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR OR ANY DRUG, PONTOON BOATS, TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE STATUTES, VIDEO PRESENTATION UPON LICENSE RENEWAL AND THE SAFE DRIVING PRACTICES COURSE."**

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Section 14-222 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

5 (a) (1) No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon any public  
6 highway of the state, or any road of any specially chartered municipal  
7 association or of any district organized under the provisions of chapter  
8 105, a purpose of which is the construction and maintenance of roads

9 and sidewalks, or in any parking area for ten cars or more or upon any  
10 private road on which a speed limit has been established in accordance  
11 with the provisions of section 14-218a or section 14-307a or upon any  
12 school property recklessly, having regard to the width, traffic and use  
13 of such highway, road, school property or parking area, the intersection  
14 of streets and the weather conditions.

15 (2) The operation of a motor vehicle upon any such highway, road or  
16 parking area for ten cars or more at such a rate of speed as to endanger  
17 the life of any person other than the operator of such motor vehicle, or  
18 the operation, downgrade, upon any highway, of any motor vehicle  
19 with a commercial registration with the clutch or gears disengaged, or  
20 the operation knowingly of a motor vehicle with defective mechanism,  
21 shall constitute a violation of the provisions of this section.

22 (3) The operation of a motor vehicle upon any such highway, road or  
23 parking area for ten cars or more at a rate of speed greater than eighty-  
24 five miles per hour shall constitute a violation of the provisions of this  
25 section.

26 (4) The operation of a motor vehicle upon a limited access highway  
27 while engaged in any activity prohibited by section 14-296aa, as  
28 amended by this act, shall constitute a violation of the provisions of this  
29 section.

30 (b) Any person who violates any provision of this section (1) for the  
31 first offense, shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more  
32 than three hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days or  
33 be both fined and imprisoned, [for the first offense] except any person  
34 who violates any provision of this section while operating a motor  
35 vehicle within a highway work zone, as defined in section 14-212d, as  
36 amended by this act, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars  
37 or imprisoned not more than three months or be both fined and  
38 imprisoned, and (2) for each subsequent offense, shall be fined not more  
39 than six hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than one year or be  
40 both fined and imprisoned.

41 Sec. 502. Section 14-296aa of the general statutes is repealed and the  
42 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

43 (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the  
44 following meanings:

45 (1) "Mobile telephone" means a cellular, analog, wireless or digital  
46 telephone capable of sending or receiving telephone communications  
47 without an access line for service.

48 (2) "Using" or "use" means (A) holding a hand-held mobile telephone  
49 to, or in the immediate proximity of, the user's ear, or (B) watching or  
50 playing a video on a mobile electronic device that is in full view of the  
51 operator in a normal driving position.

52 (3) "Hand-held mobile telephone" means a mobile telephone with  
53 which a user engages in a call using at least one hand.

54 (4) "Hands-free accessory" means an attachment, add-on, built-in  
55 feature, or addition to a mobile telephone, whether or not permanently  
56 installed in a motor vehicle, that, when used, allows the vehicle operator  
57 to maintain both hands on the steering wheel.

58 (5) "Hands-free mobile telephone" means a hand-held mobile  
59 telephone that has an internal feature or function, or that is equipped  
60 with an attachment or addition, whether or not permanently part of  
61 such hand-held mobile telephone, by which a user engages in a call  
62 without the use of either hand, whether or not the use of either hand is  
63 necessary to activate, deactivate or initiate a function of such telephone.

64 (6) "Engage in a call" means talking into or listening on a hand-held  
65 mobile telephone, but does not include holding a hand-held mobile  
66 telephone to activate, deactivate or initiate a function of such telephone.

67 (7) "Immediate proximity" means the distance that permits the  
68 operator of a hand-held mobile telephone to hear telecommunications  
69 transmitted over such hand-held mobile telephone, but does not require

70 physical contact with such operator's ear.

71 (8) "Mobile electronic device" means (A) any hand-held or other  
72 portable electronic equipment capable of providing data  
73 communication between two or more persons, including a text  
74 messaging device, a paging device, a personal digital assistant [,] or a  
75 laptop computer, (B) any equipment that is capable of playing a video  
76 game or a digital video disk, [or] (C) any equipment on which digital  
77 photographs are taken or transmitted, (D) any installed screen, video  
78 monitor or other means of providing a visual display, or (E) any  
79 combination thereof. [, but] "Mobile electronic device" does not include  
80 any audio equipment or any equipment installed in a motor vehicle for  
81 the purpose of providing (i) navigation, (ii) emergency assistance to the  
82 operator of such motor vehicle, or (iii) video entertainment to the  
83 passengers in the rear seats of such motor vehicle that is not in full view  
84 of the operator in a normal driving position.

85 (9) "Operating a motor vehicle" means operating a motor vehicle on  
86 any highway, [as defined in section 14-1,] including being temporarily  
87 stationary due to traffic, road conditions or a traffic control sign or  
88 signal, but not including being parked on the side or shoulder of any  
89 highway where such vehicle is safely able to remain stationary.

90 (10) "Highway", "commercial motor vehicle" and "authorized  
91 emergency vehicle" have the same meanings as provided in section 14-  
92 1.

93 (b) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and  
94 subsections (c) and (d) of this section, no person shall operate a motor  
95 vehicle upon a highway [, as defined in section 14-1,] while using a  
96 hand-held mobile telephone to engage in a call or while using a mobile  
97 electronic device. An operator of a motor vehicle who types, sends or  
98 reads a text message with a hand-held mobile telephone or mobile  
99 electronic device while operating a motor vehicle shall be in violation of  
100 this section, except that if such operator is driving a commercial motor  
101 vehicle, [as defined in section 14-1,] such operator shall be charged with

102 a violation of subsection (e) of this section.

103 (2) An operator of a motor vehicle who holds a hand-held mobile  
104 telephone to, or in the immediate proximity of, his or her ear while  
105 operating a motor vehicle is presumed to be engaging in a call within  
106 the meaning of this section. The presumption established by this  
107 subdivision is rebuttable by evidence tending to show that the operator  
108 was not engaged in a call.

109 (3) The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed as  
110 authorizing the seizure or forfeiture of a hand-held mobile telephone or  
111 a mobile electronic device, unless otherwise provided by law.

112 (4) Subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply to: (A) The use  
113 of a hand-held mobile telephone for the sole purpose of communicating  
114 with any of the following regarding an emergency situation: An  
115 emergency response operator; a hospital, physician's office or health  
116 clinic; an ambulance company; a fire department; or a police  
117 department, [or] (B) any of the following persons while in the  
118 performance of their official duties and within the scope of their  
119 employment: A peace officer, as defined in subdivision (9) of section  
120 53a-3, a firefighter or an operator of an ambulance or authorized  
121 emergency vehicle [, as defined in section 14-1,] or a member of the  
122 armed forces of the United States, as defined in section 27-103, while  
123 operating a military vehicle, [or] (C) the use of a hand-held radio by a  
124 person with an amateur radio station license issued by the Federal  
125 Communications Commission in emergency situations for emergency  
126 purposes only, or (D) the use of a hands-free mobile telephone.

127 (c) No person shall use a hand-held mobile telephone or other  
128 electronic device, including those with hands-free accessories, or a  
129 mobile electronic device, while operating a school bus that is carrying  
130 passengers, except that this subsection shall not apply when such  
131 person: (1) Places an emergency call to school officials; (2) uses a hand-  
132 held mobile telephone as provided in subparagraph (A) of subdivision  
133 (4) of subsection (b) of this section; (3) uses a hand-held mobile

134 telephone or mobile electronic device in a manner similar to a two-way  
135 radio to allow real-time communication with a school official, an  
136 emergency response operator, a hospital, physician's office or health  
137 clinic, an ambulance company, a fire department or a police department;  
138 or (4) uses a mobile electronic device with a video display, provided  
139 such device (A) is used as a global positioning system or to provide  
140 navigation, (B) is securely attached inside the school bus near such  
141 person, and (C) has been approved for such use by the Department of  
142 Motor Vehicles.

143 (d) No person under eighteen years of age shall use any hand-held  
144 mobile telephone, including one with a hands-free accessory, or a  
145 mobile electronic device while operating a motor vehicle on a public  
146 highway, except as provided in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (4) of  
147 subsection (b) of this section.

148 (e) No person shall use a hand-held mobile telephone or other  
149 electronic device or type, read or send text or a text message with or  
150 from a mobile telephone or mobile electronic device while operating a  
151 commercial motor vehicle, [as defined in section 14-1,] except for the  
152 purpose of communicating with any of the following regarding an  
153 emergency situation: An emergency response operator; a hospital;  
154 physician's office or health clinic; an ambulance company; a fire  
155 department or a police department.

156 (f) Except as provided in subsections (b) to (e), inclusive, of this  
157 section, no person shall engage in any activity not related to the actual  
158 operation of a motor vehicle in a manner that interferes with the safe  
159 operation of such vehicle on any highway. [, as defined in section 14-1.]

160 (g) Any law enforcement officer who issues a summons for a  
161 violation of this section shall record on such summons the specific  
162 nature of any distracted driving behavior observed by such officer.

163 (h) Any person who violates this section shall be fined two hundred  
164 dollars for a first violation, three hundred seventy-five dollars for a

165 second violation and six hundred twenty-five dollars for a third or  
166 subsequent violation.

167 (i) An operator of a motor vehicle who commits a moving violation,  
168 as defined in subsection (a) of section 14-111g, while engaged in any  
169 activity prohibited by this section shall be fined in accordance with  
170 subsection (h) of this section, in addition to any penalty or fine imposed  
171 for the moving violation.

172 (j) The state shall remit to a municipality twenty-five per cent of the  
173 fine amount received for a violation of this section with respect to each  
174 summons issued by such municipality. Each clerk of the Superior Court  
175 or the Chief Court Administrator, or any other official of the Superior  
176 Court designated by the Chief Court Administrator, shall, on or before  
177 the thirtieth day of January, April, July and October in each year, certify  
178 to the Comptroller the amount due for the previous quarter under this  
179 subsection to each municipality served by the office of the clerk or  
180 official.

181 (k) A record of any violation of this section shall appear on the  
182 driving history record or motor vehicle record, as defined in section 14-  
183 10, of any person who commits such violation, and the record of such  
184 violation shall be available to any motor vehicle insurer in accordance  
185 with the provisions of section 14-10.

186 (l) No person shall be subject to the prosecution for a violation of the  
187 provisions of this section and subsection (a) of section 14-222, as  
188 amended by this act, because of the same offense.

189 Sec. 503. Subsection (d) of section 14-283b of the general statutes is  
190 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
191 *1, 2025*):

192 (d) (1) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (b) of  
193 this section shall have committed an infraction, except that if such  
194 violation results in the injury of the operator or any occupant of an  
195 emergency vehicle, such person shall be fined not more than [two

196 thousand five hundred] ten thousand dollars and, if such violation  
197 results in the death of the operator or any occupant of an emergency  
198 vehicle, such person shall be fined not more than [ten] twenty thousand  
199 dollars.

200 (2) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (c) of this  
201 section shall have committed an infraction.

202 Sec. 504. Subsection (f) of section 14-212d of the general statutes is  
203 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
204 *1, 2025*):

205 (f) Upon conviction or a plea of guilty for committing the offense of  
206 aggravated endangerment of a highway worker, a person shall be  
207 subject to a fine of (1) not more than [five] ten thousand dollars if such  
208 offense results in serious physical injury to a highway worker, or (2)  
209 [ten] twenty thousand dollars if such offense results in the death of a  
210 highway worker, in addition to any other penalty authorized by law."

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

Sec. 501	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-222
Sec. 502	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-296aa
Sec. 503	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-283b(d)
Sec. 504	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-212d(f)