

**GENERAL STATUTES
OF
CONNECTICUT**

**TITLE 14
MOTOR VEHICLES. USE OF THE HIGHWAY BY VEHICLES. GASOLINE**

**CHAPTER 249
TRAFFIC CONTROL AND HIGHWAY SAFETY**

Sec. 14-297. Definitions.

Terms used in this chapter shall be construed as follows, unless another construction is clearly apparent from the language or context in which the term is used or unless the construction is inconsistent with the manifest intention of the General Assembly:

(1) The following terms shall be construed as they are defined in section 14-1: "Authorized emergency vehicle", "driver", "head lamp", "highway", "intersection", "limited access highway", "motor vehicle", "number plate", "operator", "person", "rotary" or "roundabout", "shoulder", "stop", "truck", "vehicle";

(2) "Crosswalk" means that portion of a highway ordinarily included within the prolongation or connection of the lateral lines of sidewalks at intersections, or any portion of a highway distinctly indicated, by lines or other markings on the surface, as a crossing for pedestrians, except such prolonged or connecting lines from an alley across a street;

(3) "Official traffic control devices" means all signs, signals, markings and devices consistent with the provisions of this chapter and placed or erected, for the purpose of regulating, warning or guiding traffic, by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction;

(4) "Parking" means the standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, on a highway, except it shall not include the temporary standing of a vehicle for the purpose of and while engaged in receiving or discharging passengers or loading or unloading merchandise or while in obedience to traffic regulations or traffic signs or signals;

(5) "Traffic" means pedestrians, vehicles and other conveyances while using any highway for the purpose of travel;

(6) "Traffic authority" means the board of police commissioners of any city, town or borough, or the city or town manager, the chief of police, the superintendent of police or any legally elected or appointed official or board, or any official having similar powers and duties, of any city, town or borough that has no board of police commissioners but has a regularly appointed force, or the board of selectmen of any town in which there is no city or borough with a regularly appointed police force, except that, with respect to state highways and bridges, "traffic authority" means the State Traffic Commission, provided nothing contained in this section shall be construed to limit or detract from the jurisdiction or authority of the State Traffic

Commission to adopt regulations establishing a uniform system of traffic control signals, devices, signs and markings as provided in section 14-298, and the requirement that no installation of any traffic control signal light shall be made by any city, town or borough until the installation has been approved by the State Traffic Commission as provided in section 14-299;

(7) "Traffic control sign" means any sign bearing a message with respect to the stopping or to the rate of speed of vehicles; and

(8) "Traffic control signal" means any device, whether operated manually, electrically or mechanically, by which traffic is alternately directed to stop and to proceed.

Sec. 14-298. State Traffic Commission.

There shall be within the Department of Transportation a State Traffic Commission. Said Traffic Commission shall consist of the Commissioner of Transportation, the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. For the purpose of standardization and uniformity, said commission shall adopt and cause to be printed for publication regulations establishing a uniform system of traffic control signals, devices, signs and markings consistent with the provisions of this chapter for use upon the public highways. The commissioner shall make known to the General Assembly the availability of such regulations and any requesting member shall be sent a written copy or electronic storage media of such regulations by the commissioner. Taking into consideration the public safety and convenience with respect to the width and character of the highways and roads affected, the density of traffic thereon and the character of such traffic, said commission shall also adopt regulations, in cooperation and agreement with local traffic authorities, governing the use of state highways and roads on state-owned properties, and the operation of vehicles including but not limited to motor vehicles, as defined by section 14-1, and bicycles, as defined by section 14-286, thereon. A list of limited-access highways shall be published with such regulations and said list shall be revised and published once each year. The commissioner shall make known to the General Assembly the availability of such regulations and list and any requesting member shall be sent a written copy or electronic storage media of such regulations and list by the commissioner. A list of limited-access highways opened to traffic by the Commissioner of Transportation in the interim period between publications shall be maintained in the office of the State Traffic Commission and such regulations shall apply to the use of such listed highways. Said commission shall also make regulations, in cooperation and agreement with local traffic authorities, respecting the use by through truck traffic of streets and highways within the limits of, and under the jurisdiction of, any city, town or borough of this state for the protection and safety of the public. If said commission determines that the prohibition of through truck traffic on any street or highway is necessary because of an immediate and imminent threat to the public health and safety and the local traffic authority is precluded for any reason from acting on such prohibition, the commission, if it is not otherwise precluded from so acting, may impose such prohibition. Said commission may place and maintain traffic control signals, signs, markings and other safety devices, which it deems to be in the interests of public safety, upon such highways as come within the jurisdiction of said commission as set forth in section 14-297. The traffic authority of any city, town or borough may place and maintain traffic control signals, signs, markings and

other safety devices upon the highways under its jurisdiction, and all such signals, devices, signs and markings shall conform to the regulations established by said commission in accordance with this chapter, and such traffic authority shall, with respect to traffic control signals, conform to the provisions of section 14-299.

Sec. 14-301. Through ways. Stop signs.

(a) The State Traffic Commission may designate any state highway or part thereof or any bridge upon any such highway as a through way, and may, after notice, revoke any such designation. The traffic authority of any town, city or borough may designate any highway or part thereof under the control of such town, city or borough as a through way, and may, after notice, revoke any such designation.

(b) No designation of a through way shall become effective as to regulation of traffic at any intersection thereon until said commission or such other traffic authority has caused signs to be erected at such intersections. Each such sign shall bear the word "stop", which shall be self-illuminated at night or so placed as to be illuminated by street lights or by headlights of approaching motor vehicles, and each such sign shall be located as near as practicable to the traveled portion of the highway at the entrance to which the stop is to be made, or at the nearest line of the crosswalk thereat, and shall be clearly visible for a distance of one hundred feet along the street intersecting the through way.

(c) The driver of a vehicle shall stop in obedience to a stop sign at such clearly marked stop line or lines as may be established by the traffic authority having jurisdiction or, in the absence of such line or lines, shall stop in obedience to a stop sign at the entrance to a through highway and shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles not so obliged to stop which are within the intersection or approaching so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard.

(d) Nothing herein contained shall prevent said commission or such traffic authority from erecting such stop signs on all corners of any intersection within its jurisdiction, and thereafter the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, relating to the stopping of motor vehicles and the right-of-way within such intersection, shall apply to the operation of motor vehicles on each of the intersecting streets.

(e) The driver of a vehicle shall stop in obedience to a stop sign at a railroad crossing erected and maintained on the highway by requirement of the Commissioner of Transportation or the State Traffic Commission.

ARTICLE XXXVIII. DEPARTMENT OF TRAFFIC AND PARKING**Sec. 214. Created; supervision by director; appointment; qualifications.**

There shall be in said city a department of traffic and parking that shall be under the charge of one director and shall consist of other employees as provided by the ordinances. The director of traffic and parking shall be the head of the department and shall be the traffic engineer of said city and shall be appointed by and subject to the authority of the mayor. The director shall reside in said city while serving in said capacity and shall hold office during good behavior and shall not be removed except for cause, which cause shall not be political.

Sec. 215. General duties.

Except as otherwise provided in this charter, the director of traffic and parking and the traffic engineer shall be responsible for all aspects of traffic safety and control and all on-street parking in said city including, but not limited to, such matters as traffic planning and analysis, installation and maintenance of traffic control devices, signs, signals and markers, parking planning, meter distribution and operation, public transportation planning and other aspects related to the safe and convenient use of the transportation facilities of the City of New Haven. The director shall make all suitable rules and regulations in regard to said department and the conduct of its business not inconsistent with the general statutes and ordinances of the city. Subject to the articles of this charter pertaining to personnel, the director shall appoint and remove all assistants and employees of the department, shall be responsible for the efficiency, discipline and good conduct of same, and for the care and custody of all property of the city belonging to or used by said department.

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 19-3. Powers, duties of traffic authority.

The traffic authority of the city shall have all powers and perform all duties imposed upon traffic authorities by law. Provided, however, that no regulation, rule or order of said authority designating through streets or stop or yield intersections; or establishing one-way streets; or establishing safety zones or bus stops or public service motor vehicle stands; or establishing taxi stands in front of hotels; or prohibiting, limiting or restricting parking; or determining loading and unloading zones; or otherwise regulating or controlling traffic in such a manner that it is reasonable and practicable to install appropriate signs, signals or markers giving notice of such regulations, shall be effective unless there are installed such signs, signals or markers as are reasonably calculated to give notice of said regulations to motorists or pedestrians.

State law references: Powers, duties of traffic authorities, §§ 14-297--14-314, Conn. Gen. Stats.

SAMPLE

Sec. 231-18. Erection of traffic signs.

Signs shall be erected at the direction of the traffic authority indicating rules for the direction of traffic at the point where such sign is located.

SAMPLE

§ 107-1. Power to adopt traffic regulations.

- A. The Board of Police Commissioners or, should none exist, the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized and empowered to adopt such rules, regulations and restrictions relative to the speed and routing of traffic and the parking of vehicles not inconsistent with the statutes of the state as, in its judgment, may be deemed necessary for the proper regulation and control of vehicular traffic upon the streets of the Town and for the safety and convenience of the public.
- B. The powers conferred in this chapter shall be conferred upon the Board of Police Commissioners, if any, and if none, the Board of Selectmen. Hereinafter, the use of the word "Board" shall mean the Board of Police Commissioners, if existing, and if not, the Board of Selectmen, as the case may be, except if otherwise stated.
- C. Except where now or hereafter otherwise provided by ordinance, the Board shall have the power to determine, establish, limit and control at such highway intersections as in its discretion it may deem advisable for the public safety and to promote the orderly and expeditious flow of traffic in and through the Town, the directions in which any vehicle entering such intersection may proceed; and to that end it may and shall indicate and direct the same by appropriate markers, signs, stations or combinations thereof.

§ 107-2. Authority of Police Department to regulate traffic.

The Police Department, acting therein by its Chief, as directed by the Board, is hereby authorized to direct and regulate traffic on the streets of the Town and may, on the occasion of parades, public receptions, fire or police activities or on other occasions when emergency conditions exist, impose reasonable parking and no-parking restrictions in addition to such parking restrictions and regulations as may have been adopted by the Board.

§ 107-3. Placement of signs and markings.

The Police Department, acting therein by its Chief, as approved by the Board, may place upon the highways appropriate signs to inform the public of the restrictions imposed by or under the authority of this chapter and may, by signs, painted lines upon the highway or by any other manner deemed sufficient and proper by the Police Department, indicate the direction and position in which vehicles shall stand upon the streets.

§ 107-4. Exceptions.

The provisions of this chapter dealing with the movement and parking of vehicles shall not apply to ambulances or to police, fire department, fire patrol, civil defense or United States mail vehicles while such vehicles are performing in an official capacity in a reasonable manner.

§ 107-5. General parking or stopping restrictions.

No person driving or controlling a vehicle shall stop or park or cause or permit the same to be stopped or parked within the intersection of any street; within 25 feet of an intersection or a marked crosswalk thereat; or within 25 feet of a duly erected stop sign. No vehicle shall be permitted to stop or remain stationary within the limits of a public highway in such manner as to constitute a traffic hazard or obstruct the free movement of traffic thereon; provided a vehicle which has become disabled to such an extent that it is impossible or impracticable to remove it may be permitted to so remain for a reasonable time for the purpose of making repairs thereto, or of obtaining sufficient assistance to remove it. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a vehicle from stopping or being held stationary by any police officer in the line of duty or in an emergency to avoid accident or to give the right-of-way to any vehicle or pedestrian as provided by law.

SAMPLE

§ 27-1. Incorporation of state statutes.

The provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes concerning vehicles, traffic, use of highways by vehicles, rules of the road, definitions of terms and penalties for violations of said statutory provisions shall apply to all highways within the Town of Wilton and shall supplement but not supersede the other provisions of this ordinance.

§ 27-2. Posting of signs.

The Police Commission of the Town of Wilton shall have the authority to post speed limit signs, traffic control signs and signs prohibiting or restricting parking on the highways and upon Town owned property in the Town of Wilton to such an extent and in such locations as it determines to be necessary and proper to protect the public safety and Town property, the regulations provided by said posted signs to be enforced by the Wilton Police Department

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