

TITLE 9

MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

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CHAPTER 1

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION

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9-101. Motor vehicle requirements. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any motor vehicle within the corporate limits unless such vehicle is equipped with a properly operating muffler, lights, brakes, horn and such other equipment as is prescribed and required by Chapter 9, Title 59 of the Tennessee Code Annotated.

9-102. Authorized emergency vehicle defined. Authorized emergency vehicles shall be fire department vehicles, police vehicles, and such ambulance and other emergency vehicles as are designated by the chief of police.

9-103. Operation of authorized emergency vehicles.

(1) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, subject to the conditions herein stated.

(2) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this title; proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down to ascertain that the intersection is clear; exceed the maximum speed limit and disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions so long as he does not unreasonably endanger life or property.

(3) The exemptions herein granted for an authorized emergency vehicle shall apply only when the driver of any such vehicle while in motion sounds an audible signal by bell, siren, or exhaust whistle and when the vehicle is equipped with at least one lighted lamp displaying a red light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the front of such vehicle, except that an authorized emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle need not be equipped with or display a red light visible from in front of the vehicle.

(4) The foregoing provisions shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others. (See Section 9-401 in this Code for provisions with respect to the operation of other vehicles upon the approach of emergency vehicles).

9-104. Following emergency vehicles. No driver of any vehicle shall follow any authorized emergency vehicle apparently traveling in response to an emergency call closer than five hundred (500) feet or drive or park such vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm.

9-105. Running over fire hoses, etc. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive over any hose lines or other equipment of the fire department except in obedience to the direction of a fireman or policeman.

9-106. Driving on streets closed for repairs, etc. No motor vehicle shall be driven upon any street that is barricaded or closed for repairs or other lawful purpose.

9-107. Reckless driving. No person shall drive any vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.

9-108. Driving under the influence. No person shall drive or operate any automobile or other motor driven vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant, or while under the influence of narcotic drugs, or while under the influence of barbitol drugs.

9-109. One-way streets. One way street for one-way traffic with posted signs indicating the authorized direction of travel at all intersections offering access thereto no person shall operate any vehicle except in the indicated direction.

9-110. Unlaned streets. (1) Upon all unlaned streets of sufficient width a vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the street except:

- (a) When lawfully overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
- (b) When the right half of a roadway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair.
- (c) Upon a roadway designated and sight posted by the municipality for one-way traffic.

(2) All vehicles proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding the in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn.

9-111. Laned streets. On streets marked with traffic lanes, it shall be unlawful for the operator of any vehicle to fail or request to keep his vehicle within the boundaries of the right hand lane except when lawfully passing another vehicle or preparatory to making a lawful turning movement.

9-112. Yellow lines. On streets with a yellow line placed to the right of any lane line or center line such yellow line shall designate a no passing zone, and no operator shall drive his vehicle or any part thereof across or to the left of such yellow line except when necessary to make a left turn to enter another street, alley or driveway.

9-113. Miscellaneous traffic-control sign, etc. It shall be unlawful for any pedestrian or the operator of any vehicle to violate or fail to comply with any traffic control sign, signal, marking or device placed or erected by the municipality. (See also Sections 9-405 – 9-409 in this Code).

9-114. General requirements for traffic-control signs, etc. All traffic-control signs, signals, markings and devices shall conform to the latest revision of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, published by the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads, and shall, so far as practicable, be uniform as to type and location throughout the municipality.

9-115. Unauthorized traffic-control signs, etc. No person shall place, maintain or display upon or in view of any street, any unauthorized sign, signal, marking or device which purports to be or is an imitation of or resembles an official traffic-control sign, signal, marking or device or railroad sign or signal, or which attempts to direct the movement of traffic, or which hides from view or interferes with the effectiveness of any official traffic-control sign, signal, marking or device or any railroad sign or signal.

9-116. Presumption with respect to traffic-control signs, etc. When a traffic control sign, signal, marking or device has been placed, the presumption shall be that it is official and that it has been lawfully placed by the proper municipal authority.

9-117. School safety patrols. All motorists and pedestrians shall obey the directions or signals of school safety patrols, when such patrols are assigned under the authority of the chief of police, and are acting in accordance with instructions; provided, that such persons giving any order, signal or direction shall at the time be wearing some insignia and/or using authorized flags for giving signals.

9-118. Driving through funerals or other processions. Except when otherwise directed by a police officer no driver of a vehicle shall drive between the vehicles comprising a funeral or other authorized procession while they are in motion and when such vehicles are conspicuously designated.

9-119. Damaging pavement. No person shall operate upon any street of the municipality any vehicle, motor propelled or otherwise, which by reason of its weight or the character of its wheels is likely to damage the surface or foundation of the street.

9-120. Clinging to vehicles in motion. It shall be unlawful for any person traveling upon any bicycle, motorcycle, coaster, sled, roller skates or any other vehicle to cling to, or attach himself or his vehicle to any other moving vehicle upon any street, alley or other public way or place.

9-121. Riding on outside of vehicles. It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, or for the owner or operator of any motor vehicle or other vehicle being operated on a street, alley or other public way or place to permit any person to ride on any portion of such vehicle not designated or intended for the use of passengers. This section shall not apply to persons engaged in the necessary discharge of lawful duties nor to the persons riding in trucks in space intended for merchandise.

9-122. Backing vehicles. The driver of a vehicle shall not back the same unless such movement can be made with the reasonable safety and without interfering with other traffic.

9-123. Projections from the rear of vehicles. Whenever the load or any projecting portion of any vehicle shall extend beyond the rear or the bed or body thereof the operator shall display at the end of such load or projections, in such position as to be clearly visible from the rear of such vehicle, a red flag being not less than twelve (12) inches square. Between one-half (1/2) hour after sunset and one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise there shall be displayed in place of the flag a red light plainly visible under normal atmospheric conditions at least two hundred (200) feet from the rear of such vehicle.

9-124. Causing unnecessary noise. It shall be unlawful for any person to cause unnecessary noise by unnecessarily sounding the horn, "racing" the motor, or causing the "screeching" or "squealing" of the tires on any motor vehicle.

9-125. Weight Limits. No person shall operate any truck or other motor vehicle with a gross weight of over eight thousand (8,000) pounds upon any public street of the city unless said street has been designated a state highway or unless a pickup or delivery is being made and the street being used is the most direct available route (Ord. #286, 9/5/55).

9-126. Passing. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of a vehicle passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left thereof at a safe distance and shall not again drive to the right side of the street until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle. The driver of the overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal and shall not increase the speed of this vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

When the street is wide enough, the driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the right of another vehicle which is making or about to make a left turn.

The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction either upon the left or upon the right on a street of sufficient width for four (4) or more lanes of moving traffic when such movement can be made in safety.

No person shall drive off the pavement or upon the shoulder of the street in overtaking or passing on the right.

When any vehicle has stopped at a marked crosswalk or at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the street, no operation of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall overtake and pass such stopped vehicle.

No vehicle operator shall attempt to pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless he can see that the way ahead is sufficiently clear and unobstructed to enable him to make the movement in safety (Ord. #424, 11/23/70).

9-127. Enforcement of traffic regulations on school property. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle on any street, drive, alley, parking lot, playground, or other place on property owned by any school system of the city or county in violation of any posted traffic or parking regulations. Provided, however, that the provisions of this section shall only be in force and effect during that period of time when the school upon which said violation occurs is in regular session and from thirty minutes prior to the beginning of said regular session until thirty minutes after the end of said regular session. Provided further, however, that the provisions of this section shall not prohibit such other and additional regulations as may be provided under the provisions of 9-117 which from time to time may be in force and effect (Ord. #662, 06/04/87).