

TITLE 15

MOTOR VEHICLES, TRAFFIC AND PARKING¹

CHAPTER

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CHAPTER 1

MISCELLANEOUS²

SECTION

- 15-101. Motor vehicle requirements.
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¹Municipal code reference

Excavations and obstructions in streets, etc.: title 16.

²State law references

Under Tennessee Code Annotated, section 55-10-307, the following offenses are exclusively state offenses and must be tried in a state court or a court having state jurisdiction: driving while intoxicated or drugged, as prohibited by Tennessee Code Annotated, section 55-10-401; failing to stop after a traffic accident, as prohibited by Tennessee Code Annotated, section 55-10-101 et seq.; driving while license is suspended or revoked, as prohibited by Tennessee Code Annotated, section 55-7-116; and drag racing, as prohibited by Tennessee Code Annotated, section 55-10-501.

- 15-112. Presumption with respect to traffic control signs, etc.
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- 15-127. Careless driving.
- 15-128. Compliance with financial responsibility law required
- 15-129. Cutting through private property
- 15-130. Adoption of state traffic statutes.

15-101. 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 properly operating muffler, lights, brakes, horn, and such other equipment as is prescribed and required by Tennessee Code Annotated, title 55, chapter 9. (1968 code, § 9-101)

15-102. Driving on streets closed for repairs, etc. Except for necessary access to property abutting thereon, no motor vehicle shall be driven upon any street that is barricaded or closed for repairs or other lawful purpose. (1968 code, § 9-106)

15-103. Reckless driving. Irrespective of the posted speed limit, no person, including operators of emergency vehicles, shall drive any vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property. (1968 code, § 9-107)

15-104. Driving under the influence. (See Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 55-10-401, 55-10-303, and 55-10-307).

15-105. One-way streets. On any 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. (1968 code, § 9-109)

15-106. 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 signposted by the city 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 in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn. (1968 code, § 9-110)

15-107. Laned streets. On streets marked with traffic lanes, it shall be unlawful for the operator of any vehicle to fail or refuse to keep his vehicle within the boundaries of the proper lane for his direction of travel except when lawfully passing another vehicle or preparatory to making a lawful turning movement.

On two (2) lane and three (3) lane streets, the proper lane for travel shall be the right hand lane unless otherwise clearly marked. On streets with four (4) or more lanes, either of the right hand lanes shall be available for use except that traffic moving at less than the normal rate of speed shall use the extreme right hand lane. On one-way streets either lane may be lawfully used in the absence of markings to the contrary. (1968 code, § 9-111)

15-108. 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 lawful left turn from such street. (1968 code, § 9-112)

15-109. Miscellaneous traffic control signs, etc.¹ 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 state or the city unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

It shall be unlawful for any pedestrian or the operator of any vehicle willfully to violate or fail to comply with the reasonable directions of any police officer. (1968 code, § 9-113)

Cross reference Stop signs, yield signs, flashing signs, pedestrian control signs, traffic control signals generally, sections 15-505-509.

¹Municipal code references

Stop signs, yield signs, flashing signs, pedestrian control signs, traffic control signals generally: sections 15-505--15-509.

15-110. 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,¹ published by the U. S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and shall, so far as practicable, be uniform as to type and location throughout the city. This section shall not be construed as being mandatory but is merely directive. (1968 code, § 9-114)

15-111. 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 control the movement of traffic or parking of vehicles, 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. (1968 code, § 9-115)

15-112. 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 city authority. All existing traffic control signs, signals, markings, and devices are hereby authorized, ratified, approved and made official. (1968 code, § 9-116, modified)

15-113. 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. (1968 code, § 9-117)

15-114. 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. (1968 code, § 9-118)

15-115. Clinging to vehicles in motion. It shall be unlawful for any person traveling upon any bicycle, motorcycle, coaster, sled, roller skates, or any

¹This manual may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

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. (1968 code, § 9-120)

15-116. Riding on outside of vehicles. It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, or for the owner or operator of any motor 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 designed or intended for the use of passengers. This section shall not apply to persons engaged in the necessary discharge of lawful duties nor to persons riding in the load-carrying space of trucks. (1968 code, § 9-121)

15-117. Backing vehicles. The driver of a vehicle shall not back the same unless such movement can be made with reasonable safety and without interfering with other traffic. (1968 code, § 9-123)

15-118. Projections from the rear of vehicles. Whenever the load or any projecting portion of any vehicle shall extend beyond the rear of the bed or body thereof, the operator shall display at the end of such load or projection, 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 (½) hour after sunset and one-half (½) 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. (1968 code, § 9-123)

15-119. 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. (1968 code, § 9-124)

15-120. Vehicles and operators to be licensed. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in violation of the "Tennessee Motor Vehicle Title and Registration Law" or the "Uniform Motor Vehicle Operators' and Chauffeurs' License Law." (1968 code, § 9-125)

15-121. 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 his 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 operator 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. (1968 code, § 9-126)

15-122. Motorcycles, motor driven cycles, motorized bicycles, bicycles, etc. (1) Definitions. For the purpose of the application of this section, the following words shall have the definitions indicated:

(a) "Motorcycle." Every motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three (3) wheels in contact with the ground, but excluding a tractor or motorized bicycle.

(b) "Motor-driven cycle." Every motorcycle, including every motor scooter, with a motor capacity that does not exceed five (5) brake horsepower, or with a motor with a cylinder capacity not exceeding one hundred and twenty-five cubic centimeters (125cc);

(c) "Motorized bicycle." A vehicle with two (2) or three (3) wheels, an automatic transmission, and a motor with a cylinder capacity not exceeding fifty (50) cubic centimeters which produces no more than two (2) brake horsepower and is capable of propelling the vehicle at a maximum design speed of no more than thirty (30) miles per hour on level ground.

(2) Every person riding or operating a bicycle, motor cycle, motor driven cycle or motorized bicycle shall be subject to the provisions of all traffic ordinances, rules, and regulations of the city applicable to the driver or operator of other vehicles except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application to bicycles, motorcycles, motor driven cycles, or motorized bicycles.

(3) No person operating or riding a bicycle, motorcycle, motor driven cycle or motorized bicycle shall ride other than upon or astride the permanent and regular seat attached thereto, nor shall the operator carry any other person upon such vehicle other than upon a firmly attached and regular seat thereon.

(4) No bicycle, motorcycle, motor driven cycle or motorized bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

(5) No person operating a bicycle, motorcycle, motor driven cycle or motorized bicycle shall carry any package, bundle, or article which prevents the rider from keeping both hands upon the handlebars.

(6) No person under the age of sixteen (16) years shall operate any motorcycle, motor driven cycle or motorized bicycle while any other person is a

passenger upon said motor vehicle.

(7) Each driver of a motorcycle, motor driven cycle, or motorized bicycle and any passenger thereon shall be required to wear on his head a crash helmet of a type approved by the state's commissioner of safety.

(8) Every motorcycle, motor driven cycle, or motorized bicycle operated upon any public way within the corporate limits shall be equipped with a windshield or, in the alternative, the operator and any passenger on any such motorcycle, motor driven cycle or motorized bicycle shall be required to wear safety goggles, faceshield or glasses containing impact resistant lens for the purpose of preventing any flying object from striking the operator or any passenger in the eyes.

(9) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or ride on any vehicle in violation of this section, and it shall also be unlawful for any parent or guardian knowingly to permit any minor to operate a motorcycle, motor driven cycle or motorized bicycle in violation of this section. (1968 code, § 9-128, modified)

15-123. Delivery of vehicle to unlicensed driver, etc.

(1) Definitions.

(a) "Juvenile" as used in this chapter shall mean a person less than eighteen years of age, and no exception shall be made for a juvenile or who has been emancipated by marriage or otherwise.

(b) "Adult" shall mean any person eighteen years of age or older.

(c) "Custody" means the control of the actual, physical care of the minor, and includes the right and responsibility to provide for the physical, mental, moral and emotional well being of the juvenile. Custody as herein defined, relates to those rights and responsibilities as exercised either by the juvenile's parent or parents or a person granted custody by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(d) "Automobile" shall mean any motor driven automobile, car, truck, tractor, motorcycle, motor driven cycle, motorized bicycle, or vehicle driven by mechanical power.

(e) "Drivers license" shall mean a motor vehicle operators license or chauffeurs license issued by the State of Tennessee.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any adult to deliver the possession of or the control of any automobile or other motor vehicle to any person, whether an adult or a juvenile, who does not have in his possession a valid motor vehicle operators or chauffeurs license issued by the Department of Safety of the State of Tennessee, or for any adult to permit any person, whether an adult or a juvenile,

to drive any motor vehicle upon the streets, highways, roads, avenues, parkways, alleys or public thoroughfares in the City of Lebanon unless such person has a valid motor vehicle operators or chauffeurs license as issued by the Department of Safety of the State of Tennessee.

(3) It shall be unlawful for any parent or person having custody of a juvenile to permit any such juvenile to drive a motor vehicle upon the streets, highways, roads, parkways, avenues or public ways in the city in a reckless, careless, or unlawful manner, or in such a manner as to violate the ordinances of the city.

15-124. Lights and sirens prohibited. (1) Sirens, red lights, etc. It shall be unlawful, except as otherwise provided in the state law, for any vehicle to be equipped with, or for any person to use upon a vehicle, any siren or any exhaust, compression, or spark plug whistle, or any light that displays a red or blue light to the front of the vehicle.

(2) Blue lights. It shall be unlawful for anyone to install, maintain, or exhibit blue flashing emergency lights upon any motor vehicle operated within the City of Lebanon. This prohibition of use of such flashing signal lights shall not prohibit full-time, salaried, uniformed law enforcement officers of the city, county, or state from using such lights. (1968 code, § 9-103.1 and 9-131)

15-125. Emergency and experimental regulations. (1) The chief of police by and with the approval of the commissioner of public works is hereby empowered to make regulations necessary to make effective the provisions of the traffic regulations of the city and to make and enforce temporary or experimental regulations to cover emergencies or special conditions. No such temporary or experimental regulation shall remain in effect for more than ninety (90) days.

(2) The commissioner of public works may test traffic control devices under actual conditions of traffic. (1968 code, § 9-128)

15-126. Regulation of motorized vehicles-city parks. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motorized vehicle on the trails, walkways, paths or ball fields which are a portion of the city park system. This restriction shall apply to use of all motorized vehicles on said premises, except for maintenance or improvement purposes, and shall restrict the subject areas to the use of non-motorized vehicles, except for official use. The regulation and restriction stated herein shall include all paths, walkways, and trails which are a part or portion of the Don Fox Community Park, including but not limited to the Cedar City Trail. (as added by Ord. #95-1377, § 1 and 2, Oct. 17, 1995)

15-127. Careless driving. (1) Every person operating a vehicle upon the streets within the City of Lebanon, Tennessee, or upon any private road or driveway or parking area, shall drive the same in a careful and prudent manner,

having regard for the width, grade, curves, corners, traffic and use of these streets and private areas, and all other attendant circumstances, so as not to endanger the life, limb or property of any person. Failure to drive in such manner shall constitute careless driving and a violation of this section.

(2) A violation of this section shall be punishable by a fine of up to fifty (\$50) dollars for each separate act of careless conduct. (Ord. #96-1423, Feb. 6, 1996)

15-128. Compliance with financial responsibility law required.

(1) Every vehicle operated within the corporate limits must be in compliance with the financial responsibility law.

(2) At the time the driver of a motor vehicle is charged with any moving violation under title 55, chapters 8 and 10, parts 1-5, chapter 50; any provision in this title of this municipal code; or at the time of an accident for which notice is required under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-106, the officer shall request evidence of financial responsibility as required by this section. In case of an accident for which notice is required under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-106, the officer shall request such evidence from all drivers involved in the accident, without regard to apparent or actual fault.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "financial responsibility" means:

(a) Documentation, such as the declaration page of an insurance policy, an insurance binder, or an insurance card from an insurance company authorized to do business in Tennessee, stating that a policy of insurance meeting the requirements of the Tennessee Financial Responsibility Law of 1977, compiled in Tennessee Code Annotated, chapter 12, title 55, has been issued;

(b) A certificate, valid for one (1) year, issued by the commissioner of safety, stating that a cash deposit or bond in the amount required by the Tennessee Financial Responsibility Law of 1977, compiled in Tennessee Code Annotated, chapter 12, title 55, has been paid or filed with the commissioner, or has qualified as a self-insurer under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-12-111; or

(c) The motor vehicle being operated at the time of the violation was owned by a carrier subject to the jurisdiction of the department of safety or the interstate commerce commission, or was owned by the United States, the State of Tennessee or any political subdivision thereof, and that such motor vehicle was being operated with the owner's consent.

(4) Civil offense. It is a civil offense to fail to provide evidence of financial responsibility pursuant to this section. Any violation of this section is punishable by a civil penalty of up to fifty dollars (\$50). The civil penalty prescribed by this section shall be in addition to any other penalty prescribed by the laws of this state or by the city's municipal code of ordinances.

(5) Evidence of compliance after violation. On or before the court date, the person charged with a violation of this section may submit evidence of compliance with this section in effect at the time of the violation. If the court is satisfied that compliance was in effect at the time of the violation, the charge of failure to provide evidence of financial responsibility may be dismissed. (Ord. #02-2327, Feb. 20, 2002)

15-129. Cutting through private property.

It shall be unlawful for the driver or operator of any motor vehicle to drive upon or through any private property of service stations, shopping centers, churches, schools, etc., or upon or through any driveways that is not a part of the public thoroughfares of this City for the purpose of avoiding obedience to any traffic signal, regulation, or traffic control device or sign. (Ord. #15-4918, §1, May 5, 2015)

15-130. Adoption of state traffic statutes. By the authority granted under Tennessee Code Annotated § 16-18-302, the City of Lebanon adopts by reference as if fully set forth in this section, the “Rules of the Road,” as codified in Tennessee Code Annotated §§ 55-8-101 through 55-8-131 and §§ 55-8-133 through 55-8-159, §55-8-161, §§ 55-8-163 through 55-8-191 § 55-8-193, § 55-8-195, § 55-8-199, §§ 55-8-203 through 55-8-205, § 55-8-212 and §§ 55-8-304 through 55-8-307. Additionally, the City of Lebanon adopts Tennessee Code Annotated § 55-4-101, § 55-4-103 through 55-4-105, §§ 55-4-107 through 55-8-108, §§ 55-4-110 through 55-4-111, §§ 55-4-113 through 55-4-115, §§ 55-4-120 through 55-4-121, § 55-4-131, §§ 55-9-401 through 55-9-408, § 55-9-414, §§ 55-9-601 through 55-9-603, § 55-12-139, § 55-50-333, and § 55-50-351, by reference as if fully set forth in this section. (adopted by Ord. # 25-7212, § 1, May 20, 2025).

CHAPTER 2

EMERGENCY VEHICLES

SECTION

- 15-201. Authorized emergency vehicles defined.
 15-202. Operation of authorized emergency vehicles.
 15-203. Following emergency vehicles.
 15-204. Running over fire hoses, etc.

15-201. Authorized emergency vehicles defined. Authorized emergency vehicles shall be fire department vehicles, police vehicles, and such ambulances and other emergency vehicles as are designated by the chief of police. (1968 code, § 9-102)

15-202. Operation of authorized emergency vehicles.¹

(1) 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 five hundred (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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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 endanger life or property.

(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. (1968 code, § 9-103)

¹Municipal code reference

Operation of other vehicle upon the approach of emergency vehicles:
 section 15-501.

15-203. Following emergency vehicles. No driver of any vehicle shall follow any authorized emergency vehicle apparently travelling 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. (1968 code, § 9-104)

15-204. 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. (1968 code, § 9-105)

CHAPTER 3

SPEED LIMITS

SECTION

15-301. In general.

15-302. At intersections.

15-303. In school zones.

15-301. In general. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle upon any highway or street at a rate of speed in excess of thirty (30) miles per hour except where official signs have been posted indicating other speed limits, in which cases the posted speed limit shall apply. (1968 code, § 9-201)

15-302. At intersections. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle through any intersection at a rate of speed in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour unless such person is driving on a street regulated by traffic control signals or signs which require traffic to stop or yield on the intersecting streets. (1968 code, § 9-202)

15-303. In school zones. Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-152, the city shall have the authority to enact special speed limits in school zones. Such special speed limits shall be enacted based on an engineering investigation; shall not be less than fifteen (15) miles per hour; and shall be in effect only when proper signs are posted with a warning flasher or flashers in operation. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any such special speed limit enacted and in effect in accordance with this paragraph.

In school zones where the board of commissioners has not established special speed limits as provided for above, any person who shall drive at a speed exceeding fifteen (15) miles per hour when passing a school during a recess period when a warning flasher or flashers are in operation, or during a period of forty (40) minutes before the opening hour of a school, or a period of forty (40) minutes after the closing hour of a school, while children are actually going to or leaving school, shall be prima facie guilty of reckless driving. (1968 code, § 9-203, modified)

TURNING MOVEMENTS

SECTION

15-401. Generally.

15-402. Right turns.

15-403. Left turns on two-way roadways.

15-404. Left turns on other than two-way roadways.

15-405. U-turns.

15-401. Generally. No person operating a motor vehicle shall make any turning movement which might affect any pedestrian or the operation of any other vehicle without first ascertaining that the movement can be made in safety and signaling his intention in accordance with the requirements of the state law.¹ (1968 code, § 9-301)

15-402. Right turns. Both the approach for a right turn and a right turn shall be made as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway. (1968 code, § 9-302)

15-403. Left turns on two-way roadways. At any intersection where traffic is permitted to move in both directions on each roadway entering the intersection, an approach for a left turn shall be made in that portion of the right half of the roadway nearest the center line thereof and by passing to the right of the intersection of the center lines of the two roadways. (1968 code, § 9-303)

15-404. Left turns on other than two-way roadways. At any intersection where traffic is restricted to one direction on one or more of the roadways, the driver of a vehicle intending to turn left at any such intersection shall approach the intersection in the extreme left hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the direction of travel of the vehicle and after entering the intersection the left turn shall be made so as to leave the intersection, as nearly as practicable, in the left hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in such direction upon the roadway being entered. (1968 code, § 9-304)

15-405. U-turns. U-turns are prohibited.¹ (1968 code, § 9-305)

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

CHAPTER 5

STOPPING AND YIELDING

SECTION

- 15-501. Upon approach of authorized emergency vehicles.
- 15-502. When emerging from alleys, etc.
- 15-503. To prevent obstructing an intersection.
- 15-504. At railroad crossings.
- 15-505. At "stop" signs.
- 15-506. At "yield" signs.
- 15-507. At traffic control signals generally.
- 15-508. At flashing traffic control signals.
- 15-509. At pedestrian control signals.
- 15-510. Stops to be signaled.

15-501. Upon approach of authorized emergency vehicles.¹ Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle making use of audible and/or visual signals meeting the requirements of the laws of this state, or of a police vehicle properly and lawfully making use of an audible signal only, the driver of every other vehicle shall immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the right hand edge or curb of the roadway clear of any intersection and shall stop and remain in such position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer. (1968 code, § 9-401)

15-502. When emerging from alleys, etc. The drivers of all vehicles emerging from alleys, parking lots, driveways, or buildings shall stop the vehicle immediately prior to driving onto any sidewalk or street. They shall not proceed to drive onto the sidewalk or street until they can safely do so without colliding or interfering with approaching pedestrians or vehicles. (1968 code, § 9-402)

15-503. To prevent obstructing an intersection. No driver shall enter any intersection or marked crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection or crosswalk to accommodate the vehicle he is operating without obstructing the passage of traffic in or on the intersecting street or crosswalk. This provision shall be effective notwithstanding any traffic control signal indication to proceed. ¹ (1968 code, § 9-403)

¹Municipal code reference

Special privileges of emergency vehicles: title 15, chapter 2.

15-504. At railroad crossings. Any driver of a vehicle approaching a railroad grade crossing shall stop within not less than fifteen (15) feet from the nearest rail of such railroad and shall not proceed further while any of the following conditions exist:

(1) A clearly visible electrical or mechanical signal device gives warning of the approach of a railroad train.

(2) A crossing gate is lowered or a human flagman signals the approach of a railroad train.

(3) A railroad train is approaching within approximately fifteen hundred (1500) feet of the highway crossing and is emitting an audible signal indicating its approach.

(4) An approaching railroad train is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to the crossing. (1968 code, § 9-404)

15-505. At "stop" signs. The driver of a vehicle facing a "stop" sign shall bring his vehicle to a complete stop immediately before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if there is no crosswalk, then immediately before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until he can proceed through the intersection in safety. (1968 code, § 9-405)

15-506. At "yield" signs. The drivers of all vehicles shall yield the right of way to approaching vehicles before proceeding at all places where "yield" signs have been posted. (1968 code, § 9-406)

15-507. At traffic control signals generally. Traffic control signals exhibiting the words "Go," "Caution," or "Stop," or exhibiting different colored lights successively one at a time, or with arrows, shall show the following colors only and shall apply to drivers of vehicles and pedestrians as follows:

(1) Green alone, or "Go":

(a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal may proceed straight through or turn right or left unless a sign at such place prohibits such turn. But vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left, shall yield the right of way to other vehicles and to pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk at the time such signal is exhibited.

(b) Pedestrians facing the signal may proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked crosswalk.

(2) Steady yellow alone, or "Caution":

(a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal is thereby warned that the red or "Stop" signal will be exhibited immediately thereafter, and such vehicular traffic shall not enter or be crossing the intersection when the red or "Stop" signal is exhibited.

(b) Pedestrians facing the signal shall not enter the roadway unless authorized to do so by a pedestrian "Walk" signal.

(3) Steady red alone, or "Stop":

(a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if there is no crosswalk, then before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until green or "Go" is shown alone. A right turn on a red signal shall be permitted at all intersections within the city, however, provided that the prospective turning car comes to a complete stop before turning and that the turning car yields the right of way to pedestrians and cross traffic traveling in accordance with their traffic signal. However, the turn shall not endanger other traffic lawfully using the intersection. A right turn on red shall be permitted at all intersections except those clearly marked by a "No Turns On Red" sign, which may be erected by the city at intersections which the city decides require no right turns on red in the interest of traffic safety.

(b) Pedestrians facing such signal shall not enter the roadway unless authorized so to do by a pedestrian "Walk" signal.

(4) Steady red with green arrow:

(a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by the arrow but shall yield the right of way to pedestrians lawfully within a crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

(b) Pedestrians facing such signal shall not enter the roadway unless authorized so to do by a pedestrian "Walk" signal.

(5) In the event an official traffic control signal is erected and maintained at a place other than an intersection, the provisions of this section shall be applicable except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application. Any stop required shall be made at a sign or marking on the pavement indicating where the stop shall be made, but in the absence of any such sign or marking the stop shall be made a vehicle length short of the signal. (1968 code, § 9-407, modified)

15-508. At flashing traffic control signals. (1) Whenever an illuminated flashing red or yellow signal is used in a traffic sign or signal placed or erected in the city, it shall require obedience by vehicular traffic as follows:

(a) Flashing red (stop signal). When a red lens is illuminated with intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles shall stop before entering the nearest crosswalk at an intersection or at a limit line when marked, or if there is no crosswalk or limit line, then before entering the intersection, and the right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.

(b) Flashing yellow (caution signal). When a yellow lens is illuminated with intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles may proceed through the intersection or past such signal only with caution.

(2) This section shall not apply at railroad grade crossings. Conduct of drivers of vehicles approaching railroad grade crossings shall be governed by the rules set forth in section 15-504 of this code. (1968 code, § 9-408)

15-509. At pedestrian control signals. Wherever special pedestrian control signals exhibiting the words "Walk" or "Wait" or "Don't Walk" have been placed or erected by the city, such signals shall apply as follows:

(1) Walk. Pedestrians facing such signal may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right of way by the drivers of all vehicles.

(2) Wait or Don't Walk. No pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway in the direction of the signal, but any pedestrian who has partially completed his crossing on the walk signal shall proceed to the nearest sidewalk or safety zone while the wait signal is showing. (1968 code, § 9-409)

15-510. Stops to be signaled. No person operating a motor vehicle shall stop the vehicle, whether in obedience to a traffic sign or signal or otherwise, without first signaling his intention in accordance with the requirements of the state law,¹ except in an emergency.¹ (1968 code, § 9-410)

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

CHAPTER 6

PARKING

SECTION

- 15-601. Generally.
- 15-602. Angle parking.
- 15-603. Occupancy of more than one space.
- 15-604. Where prohibited.
- 15-605. Loading and unloading zones.
- 15-606. Designation of public carrier stops and stands.
- 15-607. Stopping, standing, and parking of buses and taxicabs regulated.
- 15-608. Restricted use of bus and taxicab stands.
- 15-609. Parking permits.
- 15-610. Presumption with respect to illegal parking.

15-601. Generally. No person shall leave any motor vehicle unattended on any street without first setting the brakes thereon, stopping the motor, removing the ignition key, and turning the front wheels of the vehicle toward the nearest curb or gutter of the street.

Except as hereinafter provided, every vehicle parked upon a street within the City of Lebanon shall be so parked that its right wheels are approximately parallel to and within eighteen (18) inches of the right edge or curb of the street. On one-way streets where the city has not placed signs prohibiting it, vehicles may be permitted to park on the left side of the street, and in such cases the left wheels shall be within eighteen (18) inches of the left edge or curb of the street.

Notwithstanding anything else in this code to the contrary, *no person shall park or leave a vehicle parked on any public street or alley within the fire limits between the hours of 1:00 A.M. and 5:00 A.M. or on any other public street or alley for more than twenty-four (24) consecutive hours without the prior approval of the chief of police or his designee.*

No motorized or nonmotorized recreational vehicle, boat, camper trailer, or any other type of utility or construction trailer may be parked, placed, stored, abandoned, or otherwise left on any public street, alley, sidewalk, park strip, or right-of-way unless use is for immediate loading or unloading.

Furthermore, no person shall wash, grease, or work on any vehicle, except to make repairs necessitated by an emergency, while the vehicle is parked on a public street. (1968 code, § 9-501; as amended by Ord. #17-5516, exh. A(15-601), Sept. 5, 2017; **as replaced by Ord. #22-6441, April 6, 2022**)

15-602. Angle parking. On those streets which have been signed or marked by the city for angle parking, no person shall park or stand a vehicle other than at the angle indicated by the signs or markings. No person shall angle park any vehicle which has a trailer attached thereto or which has a length in excess of twenty-four (24) feet. (1968 code, § 9-502; as amended by Ord. #17-5516, exh. A(15-601), Sept. 5, 2017)

15-603. Occupancy of more than one space. No person shall park a vehicle in any designated parking space so that any part of the vehicle occupies

more than one such space or protrudes beyond the official markings on the street or curb designating the space unless the vehicle is too large to be parked within a single designated space. (1968 code, § 9-503; as amended by Ord. #17-5516, exh. A(15-601), Sept. 5, 2017)

15-604. Where prohibited. No person shall park a vehicle in violation of any sign placed or erected by the state or city, nor:

(1) On a sidewalk; provided, however, a bicycle may be parked on a sidewalk if it does not impede the normal and reasonable movement of pedestrian or other traffic;

(2) In front of a public or private driveway;

(3) Within an intersection;

(4) Within fifteen (15) feet of a fire hydrant;

(5) Within a pedestrian crosswalk.

(6) Within twenty feet (20') of a crosswalk at an intersection;

(7) Within thirty feet (30') upon the approach of any flashing beacon, stop sign or traffic control signal located at the side of a roadway;

(8) Within fifty (50') feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing;

(9) Within twenty feet (20') of the driveway entrance to any fire station, and on the side of the street opposite the entrance to any fire station within seventy-five feet (75') of such entrance when properly signposted;

(10) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when stopping, standing or parking would obstruct traffic;

(11) On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street;

(12) Upon any bridge or other elevated structure upon a highway or within a highway tunnel;

(13) In a parking space clearly identified by an official sign as being reserved for the physically handicapped, unless, however, the person driving the vehicle is (a) physically handicapped, or (b) parking such vehicle for the benefit of a physically handicapped person. A vehicle parking in such a space shall display a certificate of identification or a disabled veteran's license plate issued under Tennessee Code Annotated, title 55, chapter 21.

(14) (a) In an alleyway, fire lane and/or driveway of a private parking lot, in such a manner that shall block access of fire equipment to buildings located on or about said alleyways, fire lanes and/or parking lot driveways.

(b) Temporary parking of vehicles in a public alley or parking lot driveway for the express purpose of loading or unloading merchandise or supplies shall not be a violation under this chapter so long as said vehicle is not left unattended.

(c) The parking of vehicles in a public alley and/or public driveway located on private parking lots for a period greater than thirty (30) minutes shall be presumed to be other than temporary parking under this section.

(d) No vehicle shall be parked on any public accessible street or alley that would result in the obstruction to normal traffic flow patterns, this would include causing a driver to change lanes into oncoming traffic to avoid a parked vehicle. Vehicles found parked and or abandoned that

obstruct the flow of traffic may be deemed a risk to the safety and well-being to other motorists. Vehicles found to be possible risk to the public may be towed to avoid potential accidents.

(e) No temporary parking or blocking shall be allowed in any area designed and noted as a fire lane under the fire codes for the City of Lebanon.

(f) This section expressly applies to all public alleyways and also to all public parking lots located in the City of Lebanon which contain more than ten (10) parking spaces.

(g) Those persons found guilty of the violation of this section shall be subject to a fine according to the general penalty provision of this municipal code of ordinances. (1968 code, § 9-504, modified; Ord. #88-661, §§ 1-6; as amended by Ord. #17-5516, exh. A(15-601), Sept. 5, 2017)

15-605. Loading and unloading zones. No person shall park a vehicle for any purpose or period of time other than for the expeditious loading or unloading of passengers or merchandise in any place marked by the city as a loading and unloading zone.

All loading and unloading zones designated as merchant loading zones shall be for the express purpose or loading and unloading merchandise by merchants and shall be subject to a maximum two (2) hour time limit and general public parking in such designated areas shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes for the purpose of loading and unloading passengers. Any owner or operator of a vehicle found to be violating the fifteen (15) minute time limit shall be subject to a fine not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00). (1968 code, § 9-505; as amended by Ord. #05-2736, May 2005; as amended by Ord. #17-5516, Sept. 5, 2017)

15-606. Designation of public carrier stops and stands. The commissioner of public works is hereby authorized to establish bus stops, bus stands, taxicab stands, and stands for other passenger common-carrier motor vehicles on such public streets, in such places, and in such number as he determines to be of the greatest benefit and convenience to the public, and every such bus stop, bus stand, taxicab stand, or other stand shall be designated by appropriate signs.

When a public carrier stop or stand has been designated for the use of a particular carrier, the carrier shall pay five dollars (\$5.00) per month for each parking space so designated. (1968 code, § 9-506; Ord. #05-2736, May 3, 2005; Ord. #17-5516, Sept. 5, 2017)

15-607. Stopping, standing, and parking of buses and taxicabs regulated.

(1) The operator of a bus shall not stand or park it upon any street at any place other than a bus stand so designated as provided herein.

(2) The operator of a bus shall not stop it upon any street at any place for the purpose of loading or unloading passengers or their baggage other than at a bus stop, bus stand, or passenger loading zone so designated as provided herein, except in case of an emergency.

(3) The operator of a bus shall enter a bus stop, bus stand, or passenger loading zone on a public street in such a manner that the bus when stopped to load or unload passengers or baggage is in a position with the right front wheel not further than eighteen (18) inches from the curb and the bus approximately parallel to the curb so as not unduly to impede the movement of other vehicular traffic.

(4) The operator of a taxicab shall not stand or park it upon any street at any place other than in a taxicab stand so designated as provided herein. This provision shall not prevent the operator of a taxicab from temporarily stopping in accordance with other stopping or parking regulations at any place for the purpose of and while actually engaged in the expeditious loading or unloading of passengers. (1968 code, § 9-507; as amended by Ord. #17-5516, Sept. 5, 2017)

15-608. Restricted use of bus and taxicab stands. No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle other than a bus in a bus stop, or other than a taxicab in a taxicab stand when any such stop or stand has been officially designated and appropriately signed, except that the driver of a passenger vehicle may temporarily stop therein for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading passengers when such stopping does not interfere with any bus or taxicab waiting to enter or about to enter the zone. (1968 code, § 9-508; Ord. #17-5516, exh. A(15-601), Sept. 5, 2017)

15-609. Repealed. (1968 code, § 9-508; repealed by Ord. #17-5516, Sept. 5, 2017)

15-610. Presumption with respect to illegal parking. When any unoccupied vehicle is found parked in violation of any provision of this chapter, there shall be a prima facie presumption that the registered owner of the vehicle is responsible for the illegal parking. (1968 code, § 9-515)

CHAPTER 7

HEAVY AND WIDE LOAD COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

SECTION

15-701. Definitions.

15-702. Regulation of heavy and wide load commercial vehicles on city streets.

15-703. Heavy and wide load commercial vehicle parking prohibited.

15-704. Enforcement.

15-701. Definitions. The following words or phrases shall for the purposes of this section mean:

1. "Heavy load commercial vehicle," shall mean any vehicle in excess of five (5) tons.

2. "Wide load commercial vehicle," shall mean any vehicle in excess of 8 ft. wide. (1968 Code, § 9-130, as replaced by Ord. #00-2092, Aug. 1, 2000)

15-702. Regulation of heavy and wide load commercial vehicles on city streets. It shall be unlawful for any heavy and wide load commercial vehicle, as defined in this chapter, to drive on any street in the City of Lebanon except on streets or roads designated as state or federal roads or highways, roads or streets in industrial parks located within the city, or roads or streets designated by a sign stating: "Truck Route." (Ord. Ord. #87-571; §§ 1-3, June 16, 1987; as replaced by Ord. #95-1375, Oct. 17, 1995; and Ord. #00-2092, Aug. 1, 2000)

15-703. Heavy and wide load commercial vehicle parking prohibited.

1. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation owning, operating or having control of any heavy and wide load commercial vehicle to park the same, in lieu of off street or garage parking of such equipment, upon any street, avenue, alley or public way in any residential area of the City of Lebanon.

2. The provisions of this section shall not be deemed to prohibit the lawful driving and parking of such heavy and wide load commercial vehicle upon any street, avenue, alley or public way in the City of Lebanon for service and deliveries and for the actual loading or unloading of goods, wares, or merchandise, provided, however, that "loading" and "unloading" as used in this section shall be limited to the actual time consumed in such operation. (Ord. #00-2092, Aug. 1, 2000)

15-704. Enforcement.

1. Violations for driving heavy and wide load commercial vehicles on city streets not designated "Truck Route," or not designated as state or federal roads or highways, shall be punished in accordance with the general penalty provision of the Lebanon Municipal Code.

2. Any heavy and wide load commercial vehicle parked upon any street, avenue, or alley or public way in the City of Lebanon, Tennessee, in violation of this section may be towed away by the police department, and the cost thereof charged to the owner or other person having control of such vehicle or equipment. The towing of a vehicle under this section shall be in addition to, rather than in lieu of, penalties available under the general penalty provisions of this code. (Ord. #00-2092, Aug. 1, 2000)

CHAPTER 8

ENFORCEMENT

SECTION

- 15-801. Issuance of traffic citations.
- 15-802. Failure to obey citation.
- 15-803. Illegal parking.
- 15-804. Impoundment of vehicles.
- 15-805. Disposal of "abandoned motor vehicles."
- 15-806. Deposit of license in lieu of bail--failure to appear.

15-801. Issuance of traffic citations.¹ When a police officer halts a traffic violator other than for the purpose of giving a warning, and does not take the person into custody under arrest, he shall take the name, address, and operator's license number of the person, the license number of the motor vehicle involved, and such other pertinent information as may be necessary, and shall issue to him a written traffic citation containing a notice to answer to the charge against him in the city court at a specified time. The officer, upon receiving the written promise of the alleged violator to answer as specified in the citation, shall release the person from custody. It shall be unlawful for any alleged violator to give false or misleading information as to his name or address. (1968 code, § 9-601)

15-802. Failure to obey citation. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate his written promise to appear in court after giving the promise to an officer upon the issuance of a traffic citation, regardless of the disposition of the charge for which the citation was originally issued. (1968 code, § 9-602)

15-803. Illegal parking. Whenever any motor vehicle without a driver is found parked or stopped in violation of any of the restrictions imposed by this code, the officer finding the vehicle shall take its license number and may take any other information displayed on the vehicle which may identify its user, and shall conspicuously affix to the vehicle a citation for the driver and/or owner to answer for the violation within city court. Vehicles found parked and or abandoned that obstruct the flow of traffic may be deemed a risk to the safety and well being to other motorists. Vehicles found to be a possible risk to the public may be towed (at the owners expense) to avoid potential accidents. (1968 code, § 9-603, modified; Ord. # 17-5516, § 1.B, Sept. 5, 2017)

¹Municipal code reference

Issuance of citations in lieu of arrest and ordinance summonses in non-traffic related offenses: title 6, chapter 3.

State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, section 7-63-101 et seq.

15-804. Impoundment of vehicles. Members of the police department are hereby authorized, when reasonably necessary for the security of the vehicle or to prevent obstruction of traffic, to remove from the streets, alleys, or any other public way, and have impounded any vehicle whose operator is arrested or any unattended vehicle which is parked so as to constitute an obstruction or hazard to normal traffic. Any impounded vehicle shall be stored until the owner or other person entitled thereto claims it, gives satisfactory evidence of ownership or right to possession, and pays all applicable fees and costs, or until it is otherwise lawfully disposed of. (1968 code, § 9-604)

15-805. Disposal of "abandoned motor vehicles." "Abandoned motor vehicles," as defined in section 55-16-103, Tennessee Code Annotated, shall be impounded and disposed of by the police department in accordance with the provisions of sections 55-16-103 through 55-16-109, Tennessee Code Annotated. (1968 code, § 9-605)

15-806. Deposit of license in lieu of bail--failure to appear.

(1) Deposit allowed. Whenever any person lawfully possessed of a chauffeur's or operator's license theretofore issued to him by the Tennessee Department of Safety, or under the driver licensing laws of any other state or territory or the District of Columbia, is issued a citation or arrested and charged with a violation of any municipal ordinance or state statute regulating traffic, except those ordinances and statutes, the violation of which call for the mandatory revocation of an operator's or chauffeur's license for any period of time, the person may deposit his chauffeur's or operator's license with the officer or court demanding bail in lieu of any other security required for his appearance in the city court in answer to the charge before the court.

(2) Receipt to be issued. Whenever any person deposits his chauffeur's or operator's license as provided, either the officer or the court demanding bail as hereinabove described, shall issue the person a receipt for the license upon a form approved or provided by the department of safety, and thereafter the person shall be permitted to operator a motor vehicle upon the public highways of this state during the pendency of the case in which the license was deposited. The receipt shall be valid as a temporary driving permit for a period not less than the time necessary for an appropriate adjudication of the matter in the city court, and shall state such period of validity on its face.

(3) Failure to appear - disposition of license. In the event that any driver who has deposited his chauffeur's or operator's license in lieu of bail fails to appear in answer to the charges filed against him, the clerk or judge of the

city court accepting the license shall forward the same to the Tennessee Department of Safety for disposition by said department in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-50-801 et seq. (Ord. 78-452, modified, Aug. 1, 1978)