

## **CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF OAKWOOD**

### **PART THREE - TRAFFIC CODE**

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#### CHAPTER 301 Definitions

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**301.01 MEANING OF WORDS AND PHRASES.**

The following words and phrases when used in this Traffic Code, except as otherwise provided, shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this chapter.

**301.02 AGRICULTURAL TRACTOR.**

"Agricultural tractor" means every self-propelling vehicle designed or used for drawing other vehicles or wheeled machinery but having no provision for carrying loads independently of such other vehicles, and used principally for agricultural purposes. (ORC 4511.01(J))

**301.03 ALLEY.**

"Alley" means a street or highway intended to provide access to the rear or side of lots or buildings in urban districts and not intended for the purpose of through vehicular traffic, and includes any street or highway that has been declared an "alley" by Council. (ORC 4511.01(XX))

**301.031 BEACON; HYBRID BEACON.**

(a) "Beacon" means a highway traffic signal with one or more signal sections that operate in a flashing mode. (ORC 4511.01(KKK))

(b) "Hybrid beacon" means a type of beacon that is intentionally placed in a dark mode between periods of operation where no indications are displayed and, when in operation, displays both steady and flashing traffic control signal indications. (ORC 4511.01(LLL))

**301.04 BICYCLE; MOTORIZED BICYCLE; MOPED; ELECTRIC BICYCLE.**

(a) "Bicycle" means every device, other than a device that is designed solely for use as a play vehicle by a child, that is propelled solely by human power upon which a person may ride, and that has two or more wheels, any of which is more than fourteen inches in diameter. (ORC 4511.01(G))

(b) "Motorized bicycle" or "moped" means any vehicle having either two tandem wheels or one wheel in the front and two wheels in the rear, that may be pedaled, and that is equipped with a helper motor of not more than fifty cubic centimeters piston displacement that produces not more than one brake horsepower and is capable of propelling the vehicle at a speed of no greater than twenty miles per hour on a level surface.

"Motorized bicycle" or "moped" does not include an electric bicycle. (ORC 4511.01(H))

- (c) "Electric bicycle" means a "class 1 electric bicycle", a "class 2 electric bicycle", or a "class 3 electric bicycle" as defined in this section. (ORC 4511.01(RRR))
- (1) "Class 1 electric bicycle" means a bicycle that is equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than seven hundred fifty watts that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty miles per hour. (ORC 4511.01(SSS))
  - (2) "Class 2 electric bicycle" means a bicycle that is equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than seven hundred fifty watts that may provide assistance regardless of whether the rider is pedaling and is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty miles per hour. (ORC 4511.01(TTT))
  - (3) "Class 3 electric bicycle" means a bicycle that is equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than seven hundred fifty watts that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of twenty-eight miles per hour. (ORC 4511.01(UUU))

#### **301.041 BIKEWAY.**

"Bikeway" means a path or road specifically designated for travel by bicycles, and falling into one of the following classes:

- (a) "Class I Bikeway" means a bike path on which traffic is completely separated from motor vehicle traffic except at those locations where the bike path must cross a roadway.
- (b) "Class II Bikeway" means a bike lane established upon existing roadways by painting traffic lines on the road to create lanes, usually on the right-hand side of the road.
- (c) "Class III Bikeway" means a bike route consisting of existing streets on which there is no separation of motor vehicle and bicycle traffic, but on which signs are present to mark the route and alert motorists to potential bicycle traffic.

Pedestrians may share the use of any bikeway with bicycle traffic; both pedestrians and bicycle riders shall exercise due care in their use of any bikeway.  
(Ord. 3782. Passed 7-11-88.)

#### **301.05 BUS.**

"Bus" means every motor vehicle designed for carrying more than nine passengers and used for the transportation of persons other than in a ridesharing arrangement as defined in Ohio R.C. 4511.01, and every motor vehicle, automobile for hire or funeral car, other than a taxicab or motor vehicle used in a ridesharing arrangement, designed and used for the transportation of persons for compensation. (ORC 4511.01(L))

#### **301.06 BUSINESS DISTRICT.**

"Business district" means the territory fronting upon a street or highway, including the street or highway, between successive intersections where fifty percent or more of the frontage between such successive intersections is occupied by buildings in use for business, or where fifty percent or more of the frontage for a distance of 300 feet or more is occupied by buildings in use for business, and the character of such territory is indicated by official traffic control devices.  
(ORC 4511.01(NN))

#### **301.07 COMMERCIAL TRACTOR.**

"Commercial tractor" means every motor vehicle having motive power designed or used for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to carry any load thereon, or designed or used for drawing other vehicles while carrying a portion of such other vehicles, or the load thereon, or both. (ORC 4511.01(I))

**301.08 CONTROLLED-ACCESS HIGHWAY.**

"Controlled-access highway" means every street or highway in respect to which owners or occupants of abutting lands and other persons have no legal right or access to or from the same except at such points only and in such manner as may be determined by the public authority having jurisdiction over such street or highway. (ORC 4511.01(CC))

**301.09 CROSSWALK.**

"Crosswalk" means:

- (a) That part of a roadway at intersections ordinarily included within the real or projected prolongation of property lines and curb lines or, in the absence of curbs, the edges of the traversable roadway;
- (b) Any portion of a roadway at an intersection or elsewhere, distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface;
- (c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) hereof, there shall not be a crosswalk where authorized signs have been placed indicating no crossing. (ORC 4511.01(LL))

**301.10 DRIVER OR OPERATOR.**

"Driver" or "operator" means every person who drives or is in actual physical control of a vehicle. (ORC 4511.01(Y))

**301.11 EMERGENCY VEHICLE.**

"Emergency vehicle" means emergency vehicles of municipal, township or county departments or public utility corporations when identified as such as required by law, the Ohio Director of Public Safety or local authorities, and motor vehicles when commandeered by a police officer. (ORC 4511.01(D))

**301.12 EXPLOSIVES.**

"Explosives" means any chemical compound or mechanical mixture that is intended for the purpose of producing an explosion that contains any oxidizing and combustible units or other ingredients in such proportions, quantities or packing that an ignition by fire, by friction, by concussion, by percussion or by a detonator of any part of the compound or mixture may cause such a sudden generation of highly heated gases that the resultant gaseous pressures are capable of producing destructive effects on contiguous objects, or of destroying life or limb.

Manufactured articles shall not be held to be explosives when the individual units contain explosives in such limited quantities, of such nature or in such packing, that it is impossible to procure a simultaneous or a destructive explosion of such units, to the injury of life, limb or property by fire, by friction, by concussion, by percussion or by a detonator, such as fixed ammunition for small arms, firecrackers or safety fuse matches. (ORC 4511.01(T))

**301.13 EXPRESSWAY.**

"Expressway" means a divided arterial highway for through traffic with full or partial control of access with an excess of fifty percent of all crossroads separated in grade. (ORC 4511.01(ZZ))

**301.14 FLAMMABLE LIQUID.**

"Flammable liquid" means any liquid that has a flash point of seventy degrees Fahrenheit, or less, as determined by a tagliabue or equivalent closed cup test device. (ORC 4511.01(U))

**301.15 FREEWAY.**

"Freeway" means a divided multi-lane highway for through traffic with all crossroads separated in grade and with full control of access. (ORC 4511.01(Y))

**301.16 GROSS WEIGHT.**

"Gross weight" means the weight of a vehicle plus the weight of any load thereon. (ORC 4511.01(V))

**301.161 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE VEHICLE.**

"Highway maintenance vehicle" means a vehicle used in snow and ice removal or road surface maintenance, including a snow plow, traffic line striper, road sweeper, mowing machine, asphalt distributing vehicle, or other such vehicle designed for use in specific highway maintenance activities. (ORC 4511.01(QQQ))

**301.162 HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SIGNAL.**

"Highway traffic signal" means a power-operated traffic control device by which traffic is warned or directed to take some specific action. "Highway traffic signal" does not include a power-operated sign, steadily illuminated pavement markers, warning light, or steady burning electric lamp. (ORC 4511.01(MMM))

**301.17 INTERSECTION.**

"Intersection" means:

- (a) The area embraced within the prolongation or connection of the lateral curb lines, or, if none, the lateral boundary lines of the roadways of two highways that join one another at, or approximately at, right angles, or the area within which vehicles traveling upon different highways that join at any other angle might come into conflict. The junction of an alley or driveway with a roadway or highway does not constitute an intersection unless the roadway or highway at the junction is controlled by a traffic control device.
- (b) If a highway includes two roadways that are thirty feet or more apart, then every crossing of each roadway of such divided highway by an intersecting highway constitutes a separate intersection. If both intersecting highways include two roadways thirty feet or more apart, then every crossing of any two roadways of such highways constitutes a separate intersection.
- (c) At a location controlled by a traffic control signal, regardless of the distance between the separate intersections as described in subsection (b) of this section:
  - (1) If a stop line, yield line, or crosswalk has not been designated on the roadway within the median between the separate intersections, the two intersections and the roadway and median constitute one intersection.
  - (2) Where a stop line, yield line, or crosswalk line is designated on the roadway on the intersection approach, the area within the crosswalk and any area beyond the designated stop line or yield line constitute part of the intersection.
  - (3) Where a crosswalk is designated on a roadway on the departure from the intersection, the intersection includes the area that extends to the far side of the crosswalk. (ORC 4511.01(KK))

**301.18 LANED STREET OR HIGHWAY.**

"Laned street or highway" means a street or highway the roadway of which is divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for vehicular traffic. (ORC 4511.01(GG))

**301.181 LOW-SPEED VEHICLE.**

"Low-speed vehicle" means a three- or four-wheeled motor vehicle with an attainable speed in one mile on a paved level surface of more than twenty miles per hour but not more than twenty-five miles per hour and with a gross vehicle weight rating less than three thousand pounds.  
(Ord. 4876. Passed 1-7-19.)

**301.183 MEDIAN.**

"Median" means the area between two roadways of a divided highway, measured from edge of traveled way to edge of traveled way, but excluding turn lanes. The width of a median may be different between intersections, between interchanges, and at opposite approaches of the same intersection. (ORC 4511.01(NNN))

**301.185 MINI-TRUCK.**

"Mini-truck" means a vehicle that has four wheels, is propelled by an electric motor with a rated power of seven thousand five hundred watts or less or an internal combustion engine with a piston displacement capacity of six hundred sixty cubic centimeters or less, has a total dry weight of nine hundred to two thousand two hundred pounds, contains an enclosed cabin and a seat for the vehicle operator, resembles a pickup truck or van with a cargo area or bed located at the rear of the vehicle, and was not originally manufactured to meet federal motor vehicle safety standards.

(Ord. 4876. Passed 1-7-19.)

**301.19 MOTORCYCLE.**

"Motorcycle" means every motor vehicle, other than a tractor, having a seat or saddle for the use of the operator and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, including but not limited to, motor vehicles known as "motor-driven cycle," "motor scooter", "autocycle", "cab-enclosed motorcycle" or "motorcycle" without regard to weight or brake horsepower. (ORC 4511.01(C))

**301.20 MOTOR VEHICLE.**

"Motor vehicle" means every vehicle propelled or drawn by power other than muscular power, except motorized bicycles, electric bicycles, road rollers, traction engines, power shovels, power cranes and other equipment used in construction work and not designed for or employed in general highway transportation, hole-digging machinery, well-drilling machinery, ditch-digging machinery, farm machinery, and trailers designed and used exclusively to transport a boat between a place of storage and a marina, or in and around a marina, when drawn or towed on a street or highway for a distance of no more than ten miles and at a speed of twenty-five miles per hour or less. (ORC 4511.01(B))

**301.201 OPERATE.**

"Operate" means to cause or have caused movement of a vehicle.  
(ORC 4511.01(HHH))

**301.21 PARK OR PARKING.**

"Park or parking" means the standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, otherwise than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading merchandise or passengers.

**301.22 PEDESTRIAN.**

"Pedestrian" means any natural person afoot. (ORC 4511.01(X))

**301.23 PERSON.**

"Person" means every natural person, firm, copartnership, association or corporation.  
(ORC 4511.01(W))

**301.24 POLE TRAILER.**

"Pole trailer" means every trailer or semitrailer attached to the towing vehicle by means of a reach, pole or by being boomed or otherwise secured to the towing vehicle, and ordinarily used for transporting long or irregular shaped loads such as poles, pipes or structural members capable, generally, of sustaining themselves as beams between the supporting connection.  
(ORC 4511.01(O))



**301.25 POLICE OFFICER.**

"Police officer" means every officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic, or to make arrests for violations of traffic regulations.  
(ORC 4511.01(Z))

**301.251 PREDICATE MOTOR VEHICLE OR TRAFFIC OFFENSE.**

"Predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense" means any of the following:

- (a) A violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.03, 4511.051, 4511.12, 4511.132, 4511.16, 4511.20, 4511.201, 4511.21, 4511.211, 4511.213, 4511.22, 4511.23, 4511.25, 4511.26, 4511.27, 4511.28, 4511.29, 4511.30, 4511.31, 4511.32, 4511.33, 4511.34, 4511.35, 4511.36, 4511.37, 4511.38, 4511.39, 4511.40, 4511.41, 4511.42, 4511.43, 4511.431, 4511.432, 4511.44, 4511.441, 4511.451, 4511.452, 4511.46, 4511.47, 4511.48, 4511.481, 4511.49, 4511.50, 4511.511, 4511.522, 4511.53, 4511.54, 4511.55, 4511.56, 4511.57, 4511.58, 4511.59, 4511.60, 4511.61, 4511.64, 4511.66, 4511.661, 4511.68, 4511.70, 4511.701, 4511.71, 4511.711, 4511.712, 4511.713, 4511.72, 4511.73, 4511.763, 4511.771, 4511.78 or 4511.84;
- (b) A violation of division (A)(2) of Ohio R.C. 4511.17, divisions (A) to (D) of Ohio R.C. 4511.51, or division (A) of Ohio R.C. 4511.74;
- (c) A violation of any provision of Ohio R.C. 4511.01 to 4511.76 for which no penalty otherwise is provided in the section that contains the provision violated;
- (d) A violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.214.
- (e) A violation of a municipal ordinance that is substantially similar to any section or provision set forth or described in subsection (a) to (d) of this section.  
(ORC 4511.01(III))

**301.26 PRIVATE ROAD OR DRIVEWAY.**

(a) "Private road or driveway" means every way or place in private ownership used for vehicular travel by the owner and those having express or implied permission from the owner but not by other persons. (ORC 4511.01(DD))

(b) "Private road open to public travel" means a private toll road or road, including any adjacent sidewalks that generally run parallel to the road, within a shopping center, airport, sports arena, or other similar business or recreation facility that is privately owned but where the public is allowed to travel without access restrictions. "Private road open to public travel" includes a gated toll road but does not include a road within a private gated property where access is restricted at all times, a parking area, a driving aisle within a parking area, or a private grade crossing. (ORC 4511.01(OOO))

**301.27 PUBLIC SAFETY VEHICLE.**

"Public safety vehicle" means any of the following:

- (a) Ambulances, including private ambulance companies under contract to a municipal corporation, township or county and private ambulances and transport vehicles bearing license plates issued under Ohio R.C. 4503.49;
- (b) Motor vehicles used by public law enforcement officers or other persons sworn to enforce the criminal and traffic laws of the State or the Municipality;
- (c) Any motor vehicle when properly identified as required by the Ohio Director of Public Safety, when used in response to fire emergency calls or to provide emergency medical service to ill or injured persons, and when operated by a duly qualified person who is a member of a volunteer rescue service or a volunteer fire department, and who is on duty pursuant to the rules or directives of that service. The Ohio Fire Marshal shall be designated by the Ohio Director of Public Safety as the certifying agency for all public safety vehicles described in this subsection (c);

- (d) Vehicles used by fire departments, including motor vehicles when used by volunteer fire fighters responding to emergency calls in the fire department service when identified as required by the Ohio Director of Public Safety.  
Any vehicle used to transport or provide emergency medical service to an ill or injured person, when certified as a public safety vehicle, shall be considered a public safety vehicle when transporting an ill or injured person to a hospital regardless of whether such vehicle has already passed a hospital.  
(ORC 4511.01(E))
- (e) Vehicles used by the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Enforcement Unit for the enforcement of orders and rules of the Public Utilities Commission as specified in Ohio R.C. 5503.34.

**301.28 RAILROAD.**

"Railroad" means a carrier of persons or property operating upon rails placed principally on a private right of way. (ORC 4511.01(P))

**301.29 RAILROAD SIGN OR SIGNAL.**

"Railroad sign or signal" means any sign, signal or device erected by authority of a public body or official or by a railroad and intended to give notice of the presence of railroad tracks or the approach of a railroad train. (ORC 4511.01(SS))

**301.30 RAILROAD TRAIN.**

"Railroad train" means a steam engine, or an electric or other motor, with or without cars coupled thereto, operated by a railroad. (ORC 4511.01(Q))

**301.31 RESIDENCE DISTRICT.**

"Residence district" means the territory, not comprising a business district, fronting on a street or highway, including the street or highway, where, for a distance of 300 feet or more, the frontage is improved with residences or residences and buildings in use for business.  
(ORC 4511.01(OO))

**301.32 RIGHT OF WAY.**

"Right of way" means either of the following, as the context requires:

- (a) The right of a vehicle or pedestrian to proceed uninterruptedly in a lawful manner in the direction in which it or the individual is moving in preference to another vehicle or pedestrian approaching from a different direction into its or the individual's path;
- (b) A general term denoting land, property or the interest therein, usually in the configuration of a strip, acquired for or devoted to transportation purposes. When used in this context, right of way includes the roadway, shoulders or berm, ditch, and slopes extending to the right-of-way limits under the control of the State or local authority. (ORC 4511.01(UU))

**301.321 ROAD SERVICE VEHICLE.**

"Road service vehicle" means wreckers, utility repair vehicles, and state, county, and municipal service vehicles equipped with visual signals by means of flashing, rotating, or oscillating lights. (ORC 4511.01(JJJ))

**301.33 ROADWAY.**

"Roadway" means that portion of a street or highway improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, except the berm or shoulder. If a street or highway includes two or more separate roadways, the term "roadway" means any such roadway separately but not all such roadways collectively. (ORC 4511.01(EE))

**301.34 SAFETY ZONE.**

"Safety zone" means the area or space officially set apart within a roadway for the exclusive use of pedestrians and protected or marked or indicated by adequate signs as to be plainly visible at all times. (ORC 4511.01(MM))

**301.35 SCHOOL BUS.**

"School bus" means every bus designed for carrying more than nine passengers that is owned by a public, private or governmental agency or institution of learning and operated for the transportation of children to or from a school session or a school function, or owned by a private person and operated for compensation for the transportation of children to or from a school session or a school function; provided "school bus" does not include a bus operated by a municipally owned transportation system, a mass transit company operating exclusively within the territorial limits of the Municipality, or within such limits and the territorial limits of municipal corporations immediately contiguous to the Municipality, nor a common passenger carrier certified by the Public Utilities Commission unless such bus is devoted exclusively to the transportation of children to and from a school session or a school function, and "school bus" does not include a van or bus used by a licensed child day-care center or type A family day-care home to transport children from the child day-care center or type A family day-care home to a school if the van or bus does not have more than fifteen children in the van or bus at any time. "Child day-care center" and "type A family day-care home" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 5104.01.  
(ORC 4511.01(F), (FFF))

**301.36 SEMITRAILER.**

"Semitrailer" means every vehicle designed or used for carrying persons or property with another and separate motor vehicle so that in operation a part of its own weight or that of its load, or both, rests upon and is carried by another vehicle. (ORC 4511.01(N))

**301.361 SHARED-USE PATH.**

"Shared-use path" means a bikeway outside the traveled way and physically separate from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space or barrier and either within the highway right-of-way or within an independent alignment. A shared-use path also may be used by pedestrians, including skaters, joggers, users of manual and motorized wheelchairs, and other authorized motorized and non-motorized users. A shared-use path does not include any trail that is intended to be used primarily for mountain biking, hiking, equestrian use, or other similar uses, or any other single track or natural surface trail that has historically been reserved for nonmotorized use.  
(ORC 4511.01(PPP))

**301.37 SIDEWALK.**

"Sidewalk" means that portion of a street between the curb lines, or the lateral lines of a roadway, and the adjacent property lines, intended for the use of pedestrians. (ORC 4511.01(FF))

**301.38 STATE ROUTE.**

"State route" means every highway that is designated with an official State route number and so marked. (ORC 4511.01(JJ))

**301.39 STOP (WHEN REQUIRED).**

"Stop" when required means a complete cessation of movement.

**301.40 STOPPING OR STANDING.**

(a) "Stop or stopping" when prohibited means any halting of a vehicle, even momentarily, whether occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or traffic control device.

(b) "Stand or standing" means the halting of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, otherwise then temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in receiving or discharging passengers.

**301.41 STOP INTERSECTION.**

"Stop intersection" means any intersection at one or more entrances of which stop signs are erected. (ORC 4511.01(BBB))

**301.42 STREET OR HIGHWAY; ARTERIAL STREET.**

(a) "Street" or "highway" are synonymous and mean the entire width between the boundary lines of every way open to the use of the public as a thoroughfare for purposes of vehicular travel. (ORC 4511.01(BB))

(b) "Arterial street" means any United States or State numbered route, controlled access highway or other major radial or circumferential street or highway designated by local authorities within their respective jurisdictions as part of a major arterial system of streets or highways. (ORC 4511.01(CCC))

**301.43 THROUGH STREET OR HIGHWAY.**

"Through street or highway" means every street or highway as provided in Section 313.02. (ORC 4511.01(HH))

**301.44 THRUWAY.**

"Thruway" means a through street or highway whose entire roadway is reserved for through traffic and on which roadway parking is prohibited. (ORC 4511.01(AAA))

**301.441 TRACKLESS OR ELECTRIC TROLLEY.**

"Trackless or electric trolley" means every car which collects its power from overhead electric trolley wires and which is not operated upon rails or tracks.

Every person driving a trackless or electric trolley upon a roadway shall be subject to the provisions of this Traffic Code applicable to the driver of a vehicle, except those provisions of such sections which by their nature are inapplicable.

**301.45 TRAFFIC.**

"Traffic" means pedestrians, ridden or herded animals, vehicles and other devices, either singly or together, while using for purposes of travel any street or highway or private road open to public travel. (ORC 4511.01(TT))

**301.46 TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE.**

"Traffic control device" means a flagger, sign, signal, marking, or other device used to regulate, warn or guide traffic, placed on, over, or adjacent to a street, highway, private road open to public travel, pedestrian facility, or shared-use path by authority of a public agency or official having jurisdiction, or, in the case of a private road open to public travel, by authority of the private owner or private official having jurisdiction. (ORC 4511.01(QQ))

**301.47 TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL.**

"Traffic control signal" means any highway traffic signal by which traffic is alternately directed to stop and permitted to proceed. (ORC 4511.01(RR))

**301.48 TRAILER.**

"Trailer" means every vehicle designed or used for carrying persons or property wholly on its own structure and for being drawn by a motor vehicle, including any such vehicle when formed by or operated as a combination of a semitrailer and a vehicle of the dolly type, such as that commonly known as a trailer dolly, a vehicle used to transport agricultural produce or agricultural production materials between a local place of storage or supply and the farm when drawn or towed on a street or highway at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour and a vehicle designed and used exclusively to transport a boat between a place of storage and a marina, or in and around a marina, when drawn or towed on a street or highway for a distance of more than ten miles or at a speed of more than twenty-five miles per hour.  
(ORC 4511.01(M))

**301.49 TRUCK.**

"Truck" means every motor vehicle designed and used to carry property, which motor vehicle is rated one and one half tons or greater in capacity as determined by its manufacturer, except trailers and semi-trailers.  
(Ord. 3473. Passed 1-7-85.)

In addition, "truck" shall also include every trailer, boat, camper or self-propelled vehicle which at any point exceeds any of the following dimensions:

Height: 7 feet (measured from ground level) plus one addition 1½ ft. for accessories, but no antenna shall be measured in determining the height,

Width: 7 feet,

Length: 20 feet.  
(Ord. 2959. Passed 4-19-76.)

**301.491 UNDER-SPEED VEHICLE.**

"Under-speed vehicle" means a three- or four-wheeled vehicle, including a vehicle commonly known as a golf cart, with an attainable speed on a paved level surface of not more than twenty miles per hour and with a gross vehicle weight rating less than three thousand pounds.  
(Ord. 4876. Passed 1-7-19.)

**301.495 UTILITY VEHICLE.**

"Utility vehicle" means a self-propelled vehicle designed with a bed, principally for the purpose of transporting material or cargo in connection with construction, agricultural, forestry, grounds maintenance, lawn and garden, materials handling, or similar activities.  
(Ord. 4876. Passed 1-7-19.)

**301.50 URBAN DISTRICT.**

"Urban district" means the territory contiguous to and including any street or highway which is built up with structures devoted to business, industry or dwelling houses situated at intervals of less than 100 feet for distance of a quarter of a mile or more, and the character of such territory is indicated by official traffic control devices. (ORC 4511.01(PP))

**301.51 VEHICLE.**

"Vehicle" means every device, including a motorized bicycle and an electric bicycle, in, upon or by which any person or property may be transported or drawn upon a street or highway, except that "vehicle" does not include any motorized wheelchair, any electric personal assistive mobility device, or any device, other than a bicycle, that is moved by human power. (ORC 4511.01(A))

**301.52 WHEELCHAIR, MOTORIZED.**

"Motorized wheelchair" means any self-propelled vehicle designed for, and used by, a handicapped person and that is incapable of a speed in excess of eight miles per hour. (ORC 4511.01(EEE))

**301.53 WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLE.**

"Waste collection vehicle" means a vehicle used in the collection of garbage, refuse, trash or recyclable materials. (ORC 4511.01(RRR))

**CHAPTER 303**  
**Enforcement, Impounding and Penalty**

- |         |  |         |  |
|---------|--|---------|--|
| 303.01  | Compliance with lawful order of police officer; fleeing.     | 303.08  | Impounding and immobilization of vehicles; redemption.               |
| 303.02  | Traffic direction in emergencies; obedience to school guard. | 303.081 | Impounding vehicles on private residential or agricultural property. |
| 303.03  | Officer may remove ignition key.                             | 303.082 | Private tow-away zones.  |
| 303.04  | Road workers, motor vehicles and equipment excepted.         | 303.083 | Release of vehicle; records; charges.                                |
| 303.041 | Emergency, public safety and coroner's vehicles exempt.      | 303.09  | Providing false information to police officer.                       |
| 303.05  | Application to persons riding, driving animals upon roadway. | 303.10  | Failure to appear in court.  |
| 303.06  | Freeway use prohibited by pedestrians, bicycles and animals. | 303.99  | General Traffic Code penalties.                                      |
| 303.07  | Application to drivers of government vehicles.               | 303.991 | Committing an offense while distracted penalty.                      |

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
Disposition of unclaimed vehicles - see Ohio R.C. 737.32, 4513.62 et seq.  
Citations for minor misdemeanors - see Ohio R.C. 2935.26 et seq.  
Power of trial court of record to suspend or revoke license for certain violations - see Ohio R.C. 4507.16, 4507.34  
State point system suspension - see Ohio R.C. 4507.40  
Uniform application of Ohio Traffic Law - see Ohio R.C. 4511.06  
Marking motor vehicles used by traffic officers - see Ohio R.C. 4549.13  
Distinctive uniform required for traffic officers - see Ohio R.C. 4549.15  
Exceptions for emergency or public safety vehicles - see TRAF. 331.20, 333.06

**303.01 COMPLIANCE WITH LAWFUL ORDER OF POLICE OFFICER; FLEEING.**

(a) No person shall fail to comply with any lawful order or direction of any police officer invested with authority to direct, control or regulate traffic.

(b) No person shall operate a motor vehicle so as willfully to elude or flee a police officer after receiving a visible or audible signal from a police officer to bring the person's motor vehicle to a stop.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of failure to comply with an order or signal of a police officer. A violation of subsection (a) is a misdemeanor of the first degree. A violation of subsection (b) is a misdemeanor of the first degree, unless the jury or judge as trier of fact finds any one of the following by proof beyond a reasonable doubt:

- (1) In committing the offense, the offender was fleeing immediately after the commission of a felony;
- (2) The operation of the motor vehicle by the offender was a proximate cause of serious physical harm to persons or property;
- (3) The operation of the motor vehicle by the offender caused a substantial risk of serious physical harm to persons or property.

(d) In addition to any other sanction imposed for a violation of subsection (a) of this section or a misdemeanor violation of subsection (b) of this section, the court shall impose a class five suspension from the range specified in Ohio R.C. 4510.02(A)(5). If the offender previously has been found guilty of an offense under this section, in addition to any other sanction imposed for the offense, the court shall impose a class one suspension as described in division (A)(1) of that section. The court may grant limited driving privileges to the offender on a suspension imposed for a misdemeanor violation of this section as set forth in Ohio R.C. 4510.021. No judge shall suspend the first three years of suspension under a class two suspension of an offender's license, permit or privilege required by this division on any portion of the suspension under a class one suspension of an offender's license, permit, or privilege required by this subsection.

(ORC 2921.331)

### **303.02 TRAFFIC DIRECTION IN EMERGENCIES; OBEDIENCE TO SCHOOL GUARD.**

(a) Police officers shall direct or regulate traffic in accordance with the provisions of this Traffic Code, provided that, in the event of fire or other emergency or to expedite traffic or safeguard pedestrians, they are authorized to direct traffic as conditions may require notwithstanding the provisions of this Traffic Code. Firemen, when at the scene of a fire, may direct or assist the police in directing traffic thereat or in the immediate vicinity. The direction of traffic may be by word or audible signal, by gesture or visible signal or by any combination thereof. No person shall fail to comply with any lawful order or direction of any police officer or fireman issued pursuant to this section.

(b) No person shall fail to comply with any lawful order or direction of any school crossing guard invested with authority to direct, control or regulate traffic in the vicinity of the school to which such guard may be assigned.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

### **303.03 OFFICER MAY REMOVE IGNITION KEY.**

A law enforcement officer may remove the ignition key left in the ignition switch of an unlocked and unattended motor vehicle parked on a street or highway, or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking. The officer removing such key shall place notification upon the vehicle detailing his name and badge number, the place where such key may be reclaimed and the procedure for reclaiming such key. The key shall be returned to the owner of the motor vehicle upon presentation of proof of ownership.

(ORC 4549.05)



**303.04 ROAD WORKERS, MOTOR VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT EXCEPTED.**

(a) The provisions of this Traffic Code do not apply to persons, teams, motor vehicles, and other equipment while actually engaged in work upon the surface of a highway within an area designated by traffic control devices, but apply to such persons and vehicles when traveling to or from such work.

(b) The driver of a highway maintenance vehicle owned by this state or any political subdivision of this state, while the driver is engaged in the performance of official duties upon a street or highway, provided the highway maintenance vehicle is equipped with flashing lights and such other markings as are required by law, and such lights are in operation when the driver and vehicle are so engaged, shall be exempt from criminal prosecution for violations of Sections 331.01 to 331.04, 331.06 to 331.08, 331.31, 333.04, 337.01 and Ohio R.C. 4511.66 and 5577.01 to 5577.09.

- (c) (1) This section does not exempt a driver of a highway maintenance vehicle from civil liability arising from a violation of Sections 331.01 to 331.04, 331.06 to 331.08, 331.31, 333.04, 337.01 or Ohio R.C. 4511.66 or 5577.01 to 5577.09.
- (2) This section does not exempt a driver of a vehicle who is not a state employee and who is engaged in the transport of highway maintenance equipment from criminal liability for a violation of Ohio R.C. 5577.01 to 5577.09.

(d) As used in this section, “engaged in the performance of official duties” includes driving a highway maintenance vehicle to and from the manufacturer or vehicle maintenance provider and transporting a highway maintenance vehicle, equipment, or materials to and from a work location. (ORC 4511.04)

**303.041 EMERGENCY, PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORONER’S VEHICLES EXEMPT.**

(a) Ohio R.C. 4511.12, 4511.13, 4511.131, 4511.132, 4511.14, 4511.202, 4511.21, 4511.211, 4511.22, 4511.23, 4511.25, 4511.26, 4511.27, 4511.28, 4511.29, 4511.30, 4511.31, 4511.32, 4511.33, 4511.34, 4511.35, 4511.36, 4511.37, 4511.38, 4511.39, 4511.40, 4511.41, 4511.42, 4511.43, 4511.431, 4511.432, 4511.44, 4511.441, 4511.57, 4511.58, 4511.59, 4511.60, 4511.61, 4511.62, 4511.66, 4511.68, 4511.681 and 4511.69 and all sections of this Traffic Code or other municipal ordinances that are substantially equivalent to the sections listed above, do not apply to the driver of an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle if the emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle is responding to an emergency call, is equipped with and displaying at least one flashing, rotating or oscillating light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle and if the driver of the vehicle is giving an audible signal by siren, exhaust whistle or bell. This section does not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property upon the highway. (ORC 4511.041)

(b) Ohio R.C. 4511.25, 4511.26, 4511.27, 4511.28, 4511.29, 4511.30, 4511.31, 4511.32, 4511.33, 4511.35, 4511.36, 4511.37, 4511.38 and 4511.66, and all sections of this Traffic Code or other municipal ordinances that are substantially equivalent to the sections listed above, do not apply to a coroner, deputy coroner, or coroner’s investigator operating a motor vehicle in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4513.171. This section does not relieve a coroner, deputy coroner, or coroner’s investigator operating a motor vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property upon the highway. (ORC 4511.042)

**303.05 APPLICATION TO PERSONS RIDING, DRIVING ANIMALS UPON ROADWAY.**

Every person riding, driving or leading an animal upon a roadway shall be subject to the provisions of this Traffic Code applicable to the driver of a vehicle, except those provisions of such sections which by their nature are inapplicable. (ORC 4511.05)

**303.06 FREEWAY USE PROHIBITED BY PEDESTRIANS, BICYCLES AND ANIMALS.**

(a) No person, unless otherwise directed by a police officer, shall:

- (1) As a pedestrian, occupy any space within the limits of the right-of-way of a freeway, except: in a rest area; on a facility that is separated from the roadway and shoulders of the freeway and is designed and appropriately marked for pedestrian use; in the performance of public works or official duties; as a result of an emergency caused by an accident or breakdown of a motor vehicle; or to obtain assistance;
- (2) Occupy any space within the limits of the right of way of a freeway, with: an animal-drawn vehicle; a ridden or led animal; herded animals; a pushcart; a bicycle, except on a facility that is separated from the roadway and shoulders of the freeway and is designed and appropriately marked for bicycle use; an electric bicycle; a bicycle with motor attached; a motor driven cycle with a motor which produces not to exceed five brake horsepower; an agricultural tractor; farm machinery; except in the performance of public works or official duties.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code.  
(ORC 4511.051)

**303.07 APPLICATION TO DRIVERS OF GOVERNMENT VEHICLES.**

The provisions of this Traffic Code applicable to the drivers of vehicles shall apply to the drivers of all vehicles owned or operated by the United States, any state or any political subdivision thereof, including this Municipality, except as may be otherwise provided by law and subject to such specific exceptions as are set forth with reference to authorized emergency and public safety vehicles.

**303.08 IMPOUNDING AND IMMOBILIZATION OF VEHICLES; REDEMPTION.**

(a) Parking Violation, Vacant Car: Whenever any police officer finds a vehicle unattended upon any street or land owned by the City and parked in violation of regulation, law or the ordinances of the City, such officer may provide for the removal of such vehicle to an approved garage or other place of safety so as to impound the vehicle under this section.

(b) Unpaid Parking Ticket: Whenever any police officer finds a vehicle upon any street or land owned by the City, whether or not attended and whether or not being operated, having two or more parking tickets previously issued which have remain unpaid for ten days or more, and if the owner or operator of such vehicle has failed to post bail on such previous tickets and has failed to appear in court to answer to the charges contained therein, the officer may:

- (1) Provide for the removal of such vehicle to an approved garage or other place of safety so as to impound the vehicle under this section; or
- (2) Cause such vehicle to be immobilized by the installation of a wheel clamp, boot or similar device (an "immobilization device") so as to impound the vehicle in place under this section.

(c) To accomplish the purposes of this section or of any other section of this Traffic Code which provides for a vehicle to be removed or impounded, a police officer may secure the services of a private tow truck operator with a tow truck who may cause a vehicle to be so removed.

(d) Any motor vehicle which has been impounded by a police officer of the City shall be stored at such place or places as may be designated from time to time by the City Manager.

(e) Any motor vehicle which has been immobilized by a police officer of the City shall remain subject to all parking regulations and ordinances of the City, including the 18-hour rule.

(f) No person shall remove, deface, damage, destroy, tamper with or attempt to remove, deface, damage, destroy or tamper with, any immobilization device installed pursuant to this section. A violation of this subsection shall constitute a misdemeanor of the fourth degree for the first offense, and a misdemeanor of the third degree for each subsequent offense. This subsection shall not apply to a police officer of the City, bailiff of the municipal court, or other authorized person while releasing the motor vehicle to its owner pursuant to subsection (i) hereof.

(g) Notice of the immobilization, removal or impounding of such motor vehicle shall be mailed to the owner thereof within one (1) regular business day after the vehicle is immobilized or ordered into storage, or after the officials of the City discover the name and address of the owner, whichever occurs later.

(h) The City shall not be obligated to guard, protect or in any way to care for motor vehicles or their contents. The City shall have no liability or responsibility whatsoever for any damage inflicted upon, or theft of, such motor vehicles, their parts, accessories or contents, by persons other than agents or employees of the City.

(i) Release of vehicle. Upon the payment by the owner or operator of the costs incurred by the immobilization, removal or impounding of such motor vehicle, and upon posting of bail in an amount equal to the maximum fine for the violation(s) charged against such vehicle, its owner or operator, the police officer having custody or control of the impounded motor vehicle shall release it to such owner. For purposes of this subsection, "costs" shall include all of the following which are applicable:

- (1) Fees of the tow truck and operator;
- (2) Storage fees; and
- (3) An immobilization fee, which shall be established and updated from time to time by the City Manager in such amount as will reasonably recover the actual administrative costs associated with the immobilization and release of an immobilized vehicle. (Ord. 4807. Passed 8-10-15.)

**303.081 IMPOUNDING VEHICLES ON PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL OR AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY.**

- (a) (1) The Chief of Police upon complaint of any person adversely affected may order into storage any motor vehicle, other than an abandoned junk motor vehicle as defined in Ohio R.C. 4513.63, that has been left on private residential or private agricultural property for at least four hours without the permission of the person having the right to the possession of the property. The Chief of Police, upon complaint of a repair garage or place of storage, may order into storage any motor vehicle, other than an abandoned junk motor vehicle, that has been left at the garage or place of storage for a longer period than that agreed upon. When ordering a motor vehicle into storage pursuant to this section, the Chief of Police may arrange for the removal of the motor vehicle by a towing service and shall designate a storage facility.
- (2) A towing service towing a motor vehicle under subsection (a)(1) of this section shall remove the motor vehicle in accordance with that subsection. The towing service shall deliver the motor vehicle to the location designated by the Chief of Police not more than two hours after the time it is removed from the private property, unless the towing service is unable to deliver the motor vehicle within two hours due to an uncontrollable force, natural disaster, or other event that is not within the power of the towing service.
- (3) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, the owner of a motor vehicle that has been removed pursuant to this subsection may recover the vehicle only in accordance with subsection (d) of this section.
- (4) As used in this section "private residential property" means private property on which is located one or more structures that are used as a home, residence or sleeping place by one or more persons, if no more than three separate households are maintained in the structure or structures. "Private residential property" does not include any private property on which is located one or more structures that are used as a home, residence or sleeping place by two or more persons, if more than three separate households are maintained in the structure or structures.
- (b) If the owner or operator of a motor vehicle that has been ordered into storage pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section arrives after the motor vehicle has been prepared for removal, but prior to its actual removal from the property, the towing service shall give the owner or operator oral or written notification at the time of such arrival that the vehicle owner or operator may pay a fee of not more than one-half of the fee for the removal of the motor vehicle established by the Public Utilities Commission in rules adopted under Ohio R.C. 4921.25, in order to obtain release of the motor vehicle. However, if the vehicle is within a municipal corporation and the municipal corporation has established a vehicle removal fee, the towing service shall give

the owner or operator oral or written notification that the owner or operator may pay not more than one-half of that fee to obtain release of the motor vehicle. That fee may be paid by use of a major credit card unless the towing service uses a mobile credit card processor and mobile service is not available at the time of the transaction.

Upon payment of the applicable fee, the towing service shall give the vehicle owner or operator a receipt showing both the full amount normally assessed and the actual amount received and shall release the motor vehicle to the owner or operator. Upon its release, the owner or operator immediately shall move it so that it is not on the private residential or private agricultural property without the permission of the person having the right to possession of the property, or is not at the garage or place of storage without the permission of the owner, whichever is applicable.

- (c) (1) The Chief of Police shall maintain a record of motor vehicles that the Chief orders into storage pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section. The record shall include an entry for each such motor vehicle that identifies the motor vehicle's license number, make, model and color, the location from which it was removed, the date and time of the removal, the telephone number of the person from whom it may be recovered, and the address of the place to which it has been taken and from which it may be recovered. The Chief of Police shall provide any information in the record that pertains to a particular motor vehicle to any person who, either in person or pursuant to a telephone call, identifies self as the owner or operator of the motor vehicle and requests information pertaining to its location.
- (2) Any person who registers a complaint that is the basis of the Police Chief's order for the removal and storage of a motor vehicle under subsection (a)(1) of this section shall provide the identity of the law enforcement agency with which the complaint was registered to any person who identifies self as the owner or operator of the motor vehicle and requests information pertaining to its location.
- (d) (1) The owner or lienholder of a motor vehicle that is ordered into storage pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section may reclaim it upon both of the following:
  - A. Payment of all applicable fees established by the Public Utilities Commission in rules adopted under Ohio R.C. 4921.25 or, if the vehicle was towed within a municipal corporation that has established fees for vehicle removal and storage, payment of all applicable fees established by the municipal corporation.
  - B. Presentation of proof of ownership, which may be evidenced by a certificate of title to the motor vehicle, a certificate of registration for the motor vehicle, or a lease agreement.

When the owner of a vehicle towed under this section retrieves the vehicle, the towing service or storage facility in possession of the vehicle shall give the owner written notice that if the owner disputes that the motor vehicle was lawfully towed, the owner may be able to file a civil action under Ohio R.C. 4513.611.
- (2) Upon presentation of proof of ownership as required under subsection (d)(1)B. of this section, the owner of a motor vehicle that is ordered into storage under subsection (a)(1) of this section may retrieve any personal items from the motor vehicle without retrieving the vehicle and without paying any fee. However, a towing service or storage facility may charge an after-hours retrieval fee established by the Public Utilities Commission in

rules adopted under Ohio R.C. 4921.25 if the owner retrieves the personal items after hours, unless the towing service or storage facility fails to provide the notice required under division (B)(3) of Ohio R.C. 4513.69, if applicable. The owner of a motor vehicle shall not do either of the following:

- A. Retrieve any personal item that has been determined by the sheriff or chief of police, as applicable, to be necessary to a criminal investigation;
- B. Retrieve any personal item from a vehicle if it would endanger the safety of the owner unless the owner agrees to sign a waiver of liability.

For purposes of subsection (d)(2) of this section, "personal items" do not include any items that are attached to the motor vehicle.

- (3) If a motor vehicle that is ordered into storage pursuant to subsection (a)(1) of this section remains unclaimed by the owner for thirty days, the procedures established by Ohio R.C. 4513.61 and 4513.62 apply.
- (e) (1) No person shall remove, or cause the removal of, any motor vehicle from any private residential or private agricultural property other than in accordance with subsection (a)(1) of this section or Ohio R.C. 4513.61 to 4513.65.
- (2) No towing service or storage facility shall fail to comply with the requirements of this section.

(f) This section does not apply to any private residential or private agricultural property that is established as a private tow-away zone in accordance with Section 303.082.

(g) Whoever violates subsection (e) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 4513.60)

### **303.082 PRIVATE TOW-AWAY ZONES.**

(a) The owner of a private property may establish a private tow-away zone, but may do so only if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1) The owner of the private property posts on the property a sign, that is at least eighteen inches by twenty-four inches in size, that is visible from all entrances to the property, and that includes all of the following information:
  - A. A statement that the property is a tow-away zone;
  - B. A description of persons authorized to park on the property. If the property is a residential property, the owner of the private property may include on the sign a statement that only tenants and guests may park in the private tow-away zone, subject to the terms of the property owner. If the property is a commercial property, the owner of the private property may include on the sign a statement that only customers may park in the private tow-away zone. In all cases, if it is not apparent which persons may park in the private tow-away zone, the owner of the private property shall include on the sign the address of the property on which the private tow-away zone is located, or the name of the business that is located on the property designated as a private tow-away zone.
  - C. If the private tow-away zone is not enforceable at all times, the times during which the parking restrictions are enforced;

- D. The telephone number and the address of the place from which a towed vehicle may be recovered at any time during the day or night;
- E. A statement that the failure to recover a towed vehicle may result in the loss of title to the vehicle as provided in division (B) of Ohio R.C. 4505.101.

In order to comply with the requirements of subsection (a)(1) of this section, the owner of a private property may modify an existing sign by affixing to the existing sign stickers or an addendum in lieu of replacing the sign.

- (2) A towing service ensures that a vehicle towed under this section is taken to a location from which it may be recovered that complies with all of the following:
  - A. It is located within twenty-five linear miles of the location of the private tow-away zone, unless it is not practicable to take the vehicle to a place of storage within twenty-five linear miles.
  - B. It is well-lighted.
  - C. It is on or within a reasonable distance of a regularly scheduled route of one or more modes of public transportation, if any public transportation is available in the municipal corporation or township in which the private tow-away zone is located.
- (b)
  - (1) If a vehicle is parked on private property that is established as a private tow-away zone in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, without the consent of the owner of the private property or in violation of any posted parking condition or regulation, the owner of the private property may cause the removal of the vehicle by a towing service. The towing service shall remove the vehicle in accordance with this section. The vehicle owner and the operator of the vehicle are considered to have consented to the removal and storage of the vehicle, to the payment of the applicable fees established by the Public Service Commission in rules adopted under Ohio R.C. 4921.25, and to the right of a towing service to obtain title to the vehicle if it remains unclaimed as provided in Ohio R.C. 4505.101. The owner or lienholder of a vehicle that has been removed under this section, subject to subsection (c) of this section, may recover the vehicle in accordance with subsection (g) of this section.
  - (2) If a municipal corporation requires tow trucks and tow truck operators to be licensed, no owner of a private property located within the municipal corporation shall cause the removal and storage of any vehicle pursuant to subsection (b) of this section by an unlicensed tow truck or unlicensed tow truck operator.
  - (3) No towing service shall remove a vehicle from a private tow-away zone except pursuant to a written contract for the removal of vehicles entered into with the owner of the private property on which the private tow-away zone is located.

(c) If the owner or operator of a vehicle that is being removed under authority of subsection (b) of this section, arrives after the vehicle has been prepared for removal, but prior to the actual removal from the property, the towing service shall give the vehicle owner or operator oral or written notification at the time of such arrival that the vehicle owner or operator may pay a fee of not more than one-half of the fee for the removal of the vehicle established by the Public Service Commission in rules adopted under Ohio R.C. 4921.25, in order to obtain release of the vehicle. That fee may be paid by use of a major credit card unless the towing service uses a mobile credit card processor and mobile service is not available at the time of the

transaction. Upon payment of that fee, the towing service shall give the vehicle owner or operator a receipt showing both the full amount normally assessed and the actual amount received and shall release the vehicle to the owner or operator. Upon its release the owner or operator immediately shall move the vehicle so that the vehicle is not parked on the private property established as a private tow-away zone without the consent of the owner of the private property or in violation of any posted parking condition or regulation.

- (d) (1) Prior to towing a vehicle under subsection (b) of this section, a towing service shall make all reasonable efforts to take as many photographs as necessary to evidence that the vehicle is clearly parked on private property in violation of a private tow-away zone established under subsection (a) of this section.

The towing service shall record the time and date of the photographs taken under this section. The towing service shall retain the photographs and the record of the time and date, in electronic or printed form, for at least thirty days after the date on which the vehicle is recovered by the owner or lienholder or at least two years after the date on which the vehicle was towed, whichever is earlier.

- (2) A towing service shall deliver a vehicle towed under subsection (b) of this section to the location from which it may be recovered not more than two hours after the time it was removed from the private tow-away zone, unless the towing service is unable to deliver the motor vehicle within two hours due to an uncontrollable force, natural disaster, or other event that is not within the power of the towing service.
- (e) (1) If an owner of a private property that is established as a private tow-away zone in accordance with subsection (a) of this section causes the removal of a vehicle from that property by a towing service under subsection (b) of this section, the towing service, within two hours of removing the vehicle, shall provide notice to the Police Department concerning all of the following:
- A. The vehicle's license number, make, model and color;
  - B. The location from which the vehicle was removed;
  - C. The date and time the vehicle was removed;
  - D. The telephone number of the person from whom the vehicle may be recovered;
  - E. The address of the place from which the vehicle may be recovered.
- (2) The Chief of Police shall maintain a record of any vehicle removed from private property in the Chief's jurisdiction that is established as a private tow-away zone of which the Chief has received notice under this section. The record shall include all information submitted by the towing service. The Chief shall provide any information in the record that pertains to a particular vehicle to a person who, either in person or pursuant to a telephone call, identifies self as the owner, operator or lienholder of the vehicle, and requests information pertaining to the vehicle.
- (f) (1) When a vehicle is removed from private property in accordance with this section, within three days of the removal, the towing service or storage facility from which the vehicle may be recovered shall cause a search to be made of the records of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to ascertain the identity of the owner and any lienholder of the motor vehicle. The Registrar of Motor Vehicles shall insure that such information is provided in a timely manner. Subject to subsection (f)(4) of this section, the towing service or storage facility shall send notice to the vehicle owner and any known lienholder as follows:



- A. Within five business days after the Registrar of Motor Vehicles provides the identity of the owner and any lienholder of the motor vehicle, if the vehicle remains unclaimed, to the owner's and lienholder's last known address by certified or express mail with return receipt requested or by a commercial carrier service utilizing any form of delivery requiring a signed receipt;
  - B. If the vehicle remains unclaimed thirty days after the first notice is sent, in the manner required under subsection (f)(1)A. of this section;
  - C. If the vehicle remains unclaimed forty-five days after the first notice is sent, in the manner required under subsection (f)(1)A. of this section.
- (2) Sixty days after any notice sent pursuant to subsection (f)(1) of this section is received, as evidenced by a receipt signed by any person, or the towing service or storage facility has been notified that delivery was not possible, the towing service or storage facility, if authorized under subsection (B) of Ohio R.C. 4505.101, may initiate the process for obtaining a certificate of title to the motor vehicle as provided in that section.
  - (3) A towing service or storage facility that does not receive a signed receipt of notice, or a notification that delivery was not possible, shall not obtain, and shall not attempt to obtain, a certificate of title to the motor vehicle under division (B) of Ohio R.C. 4505.101.
  - (4) With respect to a vehicle concerning which a towing service or storage facility is not eligible to obtain title under Ohio R.C. 4505.101, the towing service or storage facility need only comply with the initial notice required under subsection (f)(1)A. of this section.
- (g) (1) The owner or lienholder of a vehicle that is removed under subsection (b) of this section may reclaim it upon both of the following:
    - A. Presentation of proof of ownership, which may be evidenced by a certificate of title to the vehicle, a certificate of registration for the motor vehicle or a lease agreement;
    - B. Payment of the following fees:
      - 1. All applicable fees established by the Public Utilities Commission in rules adopted under Ohio R.C. 4921.25, except that the lienholder of a vehicle may retrieve the vehicle without paying any storage fee for the period of time that the vehicle was in the possession of the towing service or storage facility prior to the date the lienholder received the notice sent under subsection (f)(1)A. of this section;
      - 2. If notice has been sent to the owner and lienholder as described in subsection (f) of this section, a processing fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).
  - (2) A towing service or storage facility in possession of a vehicle that is removed under authority of subsection (b) of this section shall show the vehicle owner, operator or lienholder who contests the removal of the vehicle all photographs taken under subsection (d) of this section. Upon request, the towing service or storage facility shall provide a copy of all photographs in the medium in which the photographs are stored, whether paper, electronic, or otherwise.

- (3) When the owner of a vehicle towed under this section retrieves the vehicle, the towing service or storage facility in possession of the vehicle shall give the owner written notice that if the owner disputes that the motor vehicle was lawfully towed, the owner may be able to file a civil action under Ohio R.C. 4513.611.
- (4) Upon presentation of proof of ownership, which may be evidenced by a certificate of title to the vehicle, a certificate of registration for the motor vehicle or a lease agreement, the owner of a vehicle that is removed under authority of subsection (b) of this section may retrieve any personal items from the vehicle without retrieving the vehicle and without paying any fee. The owner of the vehicle shall not retrieve any personal items from a vehicle if it would endanger the safety of the owner, unless the owner agrees to sign a waiver of liability. For purposes of subsection (g)(4) of this section, "personal items" do not include any items that are attached to the vehicle.

(h) No person shall remove, or cause the removal of any vehicle from private property that is established as a private tow-away zone under this section, or store such a vehicle other than in accordance with this section, or otherwise fail to comply with any applicable requirement of this section.

(i) This section does not affect or limit the operation of Ohio R.C. 4513.60 or Ohio R.C. 4513.61 to 4613.65 as they relate to property other than private property that is established as a private tow-away zone under subsection (a) of this section.

(j) Whoever violates subsection (h) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

(k) As used in this section, "owner of a private property" or "owner of the private property" includes, with respect to a private property, any of the following:

- (1) Any person who holds title to the property;
- (2) Any person who is a lessee or sublessee with respect to a lease or sublease agreement for the property;
- (3) A person who is authorized to manage the property;
- (4) A duly authorized agent of any person listed in subsections (k)(1) to (3) of this section. (ORC 4513.601)

### **303.083 RELEASE OF VEHICLE; RECORDS; CHARGES.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The provisions of former Section 303.083 as amended are now codified in Section 303.081.)

### **303.09 PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION TO POLICE OFFICER.**

(a) No person shall knowingly present, display or orally communicate a false name, social security number or date of birth to a law enforcement officer who is in the process of issuing to the person a traffic ticket or complaint.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 4513.361)

### **303.10 FAILURE TO APPEAR IN COURT.**

(a) No person who is issued a traffic ticket for the violation of any provisions of this Traffic Code, whereon a certain time and date are given when the accused is required to appear in court to answer the charge or charges made, shall fail to appear in court at the time and on the date given.

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

### **303.99 GENERAL TRAFFIC CODE PENALTIES.**

(a) General Misdemeanor Classifications. Whoever violates any provision of this Traffic Code for which violation no penalty is otherwise provided, is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.99)

(b) Penalties.

(1) Any natural person who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a misdemeanor shall be imprisoned for a definite term or fined, or both, which term of imprisonment and fine shall be fixed by the court as provided in this subsection.

<u>Classification of Misdemeanor</u>	<u>Maximum Term of Imprisonment</u>	<u>Maximum Fine</u>
First degree	180 days	\$1,000.00
Second degree	90 days	750.00
Third degree	60 days	500.00
Fourth degree	30 days	250.00
Minor	No imprisonment	150.00

(2) In addition to any such penalty, the court may require any person who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a misdemeanor to make restitution for all or part of the property damage that is caused by his offense.

(3) Regardless of the penalties provided in subsection (1) above, an organization (as opposed to a natural person) convicted of an offense pursuant to Section 501.11 shall be fined, and the penalty of imprisonment shall not apply. Such fines shall be fixed by the court as follow:

<u>Type of Misdemeanor</u>	<u>Maximum Fine</u>
First degree	\$5,000.00
Second degree	4,000.00
Third degree	3,000.00
Fourth degree	2,000.00
Minor	1,000.00

(4) When an organization is convicted of an offense, and the section defining the offense includes a penalty and plainly indicates a purpose to impose that penalty upon organizations, then such penalty shall be imposed in lieu of the penalty provided in subsection (b)(3) hereof.

(5) When an organization is convicted of an offense, and the section defining the offense includes a penalty and that penalty includes a higher fine than that provided in subsection (b)(3) hereof, then the penalty imposed shall be pursuant to that higher penalty.

(6) Subsection (b)(3) does not prevent the imposition of available civil sanctions against an organization convicted of an offense pursuant to Section 501.11, either in addition to or in lieu of a fine imposed pursuant to subsection (b)(3) hereof.

**303.991 COMMITTING AN OFFENSE WHILE DISTRACTED PENALTY.**

(a) As used in this section and each section of the Traffic Code where specified, all of the following apply:

- (1) “Distracted” means doing either of the following while operating a vehicle:
  - A. Using a handheld electronic wireless communications device, as defined in Ohio R.C. 4511.204 except when utilizing any of the following:
    1. The device’s speakerphone function;
    2. A wireless technology standard for exchanging data over short distances;
    3. A “voice-operated or hands-free” device that allows the person to use the electronic wireless communications device without the use of either hand except to activate, deactivate, or initiate a feature or function;
    4. Any device that is physically or electronically integrated into the motor vehicle.
  - B. Engaging in any activity that is not necessary to the operation of a vehicle and impairs, or reasonably would be expected to impair, the ability of the operator to drive the vehicle safely.
- (2) “Distracted” does not include operating a motor vehicle while wearing an earphone or earplug over or in both ears at the same time. A person who so wears earphones or earplugs may be charged with a violation of Section 331.43.
- (3) “Distracted” does not include conducting any activity while operating a utility service vehicle or a vehicle for or on behalf of a utility, provided that the driver of the vehicle is acting in response to an emergency, power outage or a circumstance affecting the health or safety of individuals. As used in subsection (a)(3) of this section:
  - A. “Utility” means an entity specified in division (A), (C), (D), (E) or (G) of Ohio R.C. 4905.03.
  - B. “Utility service vehicle” means a vehicle owned or operated by a utility.

(b) If an offender violates any section of this Traffic Code which provides for an enhanced penalty for an offense committed while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the violation, the offender is subject to the applicable penalty for the violation and, notwithstanding Ohio R.C. 2929.28, is subject to an additional fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) as follows:

- (1) Subject to Traffic Rule 13, if a law enforcement officer issues an offender a ticket, citation or summons for a violation of any section of the Traffic Code that indicates that the offender was distracted while committing the violation and that the distracting activity was a contributing factor to the commission of the violation, the offender may enter a written plea of guilty and waive the offender’s right to contest the ticket, citation or summons in a trial provided that the offender pays the total amount of the fine established for the violation and pays the additional fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

In lieu of payment of the additional fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), the offender instead may elect to attend a distracted driving safety course, the duration and contents of which shall be established by the Ohio Director of Public Safety. If the offender attends and successfully completes the course, the offender shall be issued written evidence that the offender successfully completed the course. The offender shall be required to pay the total amount of the fine established for the violation, but shall not be required to pay the additional fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), so long as the offender submits to the court both the offender's payment in full and such written evidence.

- (2) If the offender appears in person to contest the ticket, citation or summons in a trial and the offender pleads guilty to or is convicted of the violation, the court, in addition to all other penalties provided by law, may impose the applicable penalty for the violation and may impose the additional fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

If the court imposes upon the offender the applicable penalty for the violation and an additional fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), the court shall inform the offender that, in lieu of payment of the additional fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), the offender instead may elect to attend the distracted driving safety course described in subsection (b)(1) of this section. If the offender elects the course option and attends and successfully completes the course, the offender shall be issued written evidence that the offender successfully completed the course. The offender shall be required to pay the total amount of the fine established for the violation, but shall not be required to pay the additional fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00), so long as the offender submits to the court the offender's payment and such written evidence.

(ORC 4511.991)



**CHAPTER 305**  
**Traffic Control Map; Traffic Regulations**

- 305.01 Traffic control map.**  
**305.02 Incorporation, maintenance and amendments.**  
**305.03 Authority of City Manager to adopt regulations.**  
**305.04 Effective date of regulations.**

CROSS REFERENCES

See sectional history for similar State law  
 Power to designate highway as included in a freeway, expressway or thruway - see Ohio R.C. 4511.011  
 Uniform system of traffic control devices - see Ohio R.C. 4511.09, 4511.11(D)  
 Placing and maintaining local traffic control devices - see Ohio R.C. 4511.10, 4511.11  
 Alteration of prima-facie speed limits - see Ohio R.C. 4511.21, 4511.22(A), 4511.23  
 Power to erect stop signs at grade crossings - see Ohio R.C. 4511.61  
 Designation of through streets and erection of stop or yield signs - see Ohio R.C. 4511.65; TRAF. 313.02  
 Traffic control devices defined - see TRAF. 301.46

**305.01 TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP.**

There is established a traffic control map which shall reflect by legend and proper designation the city's currently existing:

- (a) Traffic control signals.
- (b) Through streets and state routes.
- (c) One-way streets and alleys.
- (d) Stop intersections.
- (e) Yield right-of-way intersections.
- (f) Commercial and passenger loading zones.
- (g) Prohibited and limited parking areas.
- (h) Angle parking areas.
- (i) Parking meter areas.

**305.02 INCORPORATION, MAINTENANCE AND AMENDMENTS.**

(a) The traffic control map, as existing on the date of passage of the Traffic Code of this City, is incorporated as a part of this Traffic Code. The map shall be prepared and maintained up to date by such person, division or department as may be designated by the City Manager. (Ord. 4312. Passed 11-6-95.)

(b) Council may amend the traffic control map by ordinance, or the City Manager may amend the traffic control map by regulation, pursuant to Sections 305.03 and 305.04. No such ordinance or regulation shall be enforceable until after the effective date of the ordinance or regulation and the official signs, signals, markings or parking meters, where required, are erected or placed in proper position. Such person, division or department as may be designated by the City Manager from time to time, upon receipt of a copy of the ordinance or regulations, shall record the information and amend the map to conform with the provisions thereof. (See 305.04 as to effective date of traffic regulations by the City Manager.)  
(Ord. 4312. Passed 11-6-95.)

### **305.03 AUTHORITY OF CITY MANAGER TO ADOPT REGULATIONS.**

The City Manager is authorized to adopt regulations as follows:

- (a) To designate streets or portions of streets upon which there shall be no parking of vehicles at any time, for a limited time or during certain hours, including but not limited to, establishment on City-owned land of special parking locations and/or privileges for handicapped persons (under Chapter 351) and establishment of fire lanes on private property and city owned land (under Chapter 351); (see limitations in (d) below)
- (b) To close temporarily any street or portion of any street or to restrict the use thereof when required by public safety;
- (c) To prohibit and/or permit left-hand turns or right-hand turns by vehicles at designated intersections;
- (d) To regulate the stopping, standing or parking of vehicles, trackless trolleys and streetcars, but under ORC 4511.69 the following matters may be controlled or adopted only by ordinances passed by Council and not by traffic regulations of the City Manager:
  - (1) Authorization of angle parking, or
  - (2) Authorization of parallel parking on the left-hand side of any one-way street.  
(Ord. 3141. Passed 3-19-80.)
- (e) To designate entrances to intersections as points at which traffic shall stop before entering the intersection upon the erection of stop signs at such points;
- (f) To designate intersections at which automatic traffic control signals displaying alternating red, amber and green lights or displaying flashing red or amber lights shall be installed and maintained; and
- (g) In populous, high traffic and business areas where there are traffic control problems which would be intensified by additional construction or change in use of the abutting property if a permit is requested for such additional construction or change in use, to require the construction and/or installation of traffic control devices such as but not limited to acceleration or de-acceleration lanes, traffic lights, lines, lane dividers, islands and/or any other devices helpful in traffic control.
  - (1) Such devices shall be designed so as to reduce traffic control problems and may extend onto the privately owned premises of the adjacent developed areas if the street or other public way is not wide enough to permit the installation of such devices.



- (2) All expenses for the installation of such devices, including costs of advance information signs relating to such devices and any necessary easements, shall be borne by the adjacent property owners who wish to engage in such additional construction or change in the use of the abutting property.
- (3) The Building Commissioner shall not issue any permits for additional construction or change in use of such property when in the opinion of the City Manager issuance of such permit(s) would intensify traffic control problems.

(h) To regulate vehicles on land and lots owned by the city and to impound vehicles in violation as provided in Section 303.08.  
(Ord. 4018. Passed 11-12-90.)

### **305.04 EFFECTIVE DATE OF REGULATIONS.**

Regulations promulgated by the City Manager pursuant to the authority of Section 305.03 shall become effective and be in force as though fully written in the Traffic Code from and after the time all the following things, insofar as applicable, have been done and performed:

- (a) The regulation, in typewritten form, is to be filed with the Clerk of Council and the Clerk shall maintain the same in a book or volume for such purpose only in his or her office so it is available to the public for inspection during hours the administrative offices of the city are open. This requirement shall not apply to temporary street closures or traffic restrictions implemented for public safety purposes, provided that temporary traffic control devices are visibly displayed and substantially in compliance with design guidelines set forth in the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- (b) For regulations pertaining to parking, curbs where parking is prohibited at all times shall be painted yellow, and/or signs shall be erected along the curb to advise of limited or prohibited parking; and stripes shall be painted on the pavement to indicate diagonal parking.
- (c) For regulations prohibiting left-hand or right-hand turns at intersections, a visible sign shall be erected at the intersection.
- (d) For regulations establishing stop intersections, a sign of the size and design approved by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) shall be erected on the stop street to advise travelers of the requirement to stop.
- (e) For regulations establishing automatic traffic control signals or flashing signals, such signal device shall be erected and maintained at the intersection.
- (f) Any other traffic control device required by the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for any such regulations must be erected or otherwise placed in operation. (Ord. 4845. Passed 10-2-17.)

#### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

The provisions of this chapter describe administrative authority as to traffic matters. There are no rules of conduct, no requirements to be obeyed in this chapter. Accordingly, Section 303.99 which provides penalties for, and classification of, violations for all sections of the Traffic Code (except those for which some specific penalty and/or classification is provided in the particular section or chapter) shall not apply to this Chapter 305 or any section herein.



**TITLE THREE - Streets and Traffic Control Devices**

Chap. 311. Street Obstructions and Special Situations.

Chap. 313. Traffic Control Devices.

**CHAPTER 311**

**Street Obstructions and Special Situations**

<b>311.01</b>	<b>Placing injurious material or obstruction in street.</b>	<b>311.07</b>	<b>Special police required for commercial establishments creating traffic problems.</b>
<b>311.02</b>	<b>Parades and blocking streets; Parade and Assembly Appeals Board.</b>	<b>311.08</b>	<b>Authority of real estate owner to control traffic on that land.</b>
<b>311.03</b>	<b>Zones of quiet.</b>	<b>311.09</b>	<b>Littering.</b>
<b>311.04</b>	<b>Play streets.</b>		
<b>311.05</b>	<b>Toy vehicles upon roadway.</b>		
<b>311.06</b>	<b>Traffic in areas adjoining gasoline filling stations.</b>		

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional history for similar State law

Power to regulate processions or assemblages - see Ohio R.C. 4511.07(C)

Dropping, sifting and leaking loads - see TRAF. 339.08

Subpoena power of Parade and Assembly Appeals Board - see ADM. 160.02

**311.01 PLACING INJURIOUS MATERIAL OR OBSTRUCTION IN STREET.**

(a) No person shall place or knowingly drop upon any part of a street, highway or alley any tacks, bottles, wire, glass, nails or other articles which may damage or injure any person, vehicle or animal traveling along or upon such street, except such substances that may be placed upon the roadway by proper authority for the repair or construction thereof.

(b) Any person who drops or permits to be dropped or thrown upon any street any noxious, destructive or injurious material shall immediately remove the same.

(c) Any person authorized to remove a wrecked or damaged vehicle from a street shall remove any glass or other injurious substance dropped upon the street from such vehicle.

(d) No person shall place any obstruction in or upon a street, alley or highway without proper authority. (Ord. 4583. Passed 4-18-05.)

(e) No person, with intent to cause physical harm to a person or vehicle, shall place or knowingly drop upon any part of a highway, lane, road, street or alley any tacks, bottles, wire, glass, nails or other articles which may damage or injure any person, vehicle or animal traveling along or upon such highway, except such substances that may be placed upon the roadway by proper authority for the repair or construction thereof.

- (f) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates any provision of subsections (a) to (d) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates any provision of subsections (a) to (d) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates any provision of subsections (a) to (d) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.
- (2) Whoever violates subsection (e) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 4511.74)

**311.02 PARADES AND BLOCKING STREETS; PARADE AND ASSEMBLY  
APPEALS BOARD.**

(a) No person shall conduct or participate in any parade upon that portion of any street or highway which is open to the use of the public as a thoroughfare for purposes of vehicular traffic, nor block off any such portion of a street or highway area, without first obtaining a permit from the Director of the Department of Public Safety of this City.

(b) A parade is defined to be a formal or informal march or procession of two or more individuals, vehicles or animals moving from one point to another in an organized manner so as to interfere with the free and uninterrupted use by the public of such street or highway.

(c) Applications for such permits shall be made on forms prescribed by the City and shall contain such information as is reasonably necessary to a fair determination of whether a permit should be issued, including but not limited to the exact portions of any street or highway to be blocked off, the exact route of the parade, the date and hours of the day for which the permit is requested, the number of persons anticipated to be involved and the number, type and size of vehicles and animals anticipated to be involved. Applications shall be filed with the Director of the Department of Public Safety not less than 4 days before the time intended for such parade or blocking off. (Ord. 3069. Passed 11-20-78.)

(d) The permit shall be issued unless the Director finds that the resultant conditions would unreasonably hinder the use by the public of such portion of the street or highway or would require the diversion of sufficient police officers or firemen so as to deprive the City of normal police and fire protection, in which case the application shall be rejected or conditions imposed as set forth below.

(e) The permit or any order accompanying it may prescribe reasonable conditions as to the hours, the places of assembly and of dispersal, the route and manner of march or travel, the number, type and size of animals and vehicles and the streets, highways or portions thereof which may be used or occupied. Further, the Director may require additional conditions for the issuance of the permit, including but not limited to requirements and restrictions that the person conducting the parade or blocking off the street assume, in writing, the obligation of paying the costs to the City of supervising and directing such parade or blocking off, including the cost of providing personnel from the Departments of Safety and Service or any other City personnel, including the costs of the services of outside contractors, and including that such person provide evidence of ability to pay such costs.

(f) The Director of the Department of Public Safety shall issue the permit (with or without conditions) or a written rejection of the application within four days after the application was filed. It shall be the duty of the applicant to pick up the permit or rejection at the City offices.

(g) If the decision of the Director was to reject the application, or to approve it but subject to conditions imposed by the Director, the City shall take the initiative in providing for an administrative hearing and review within 5 days after the rejection or conditional approval was issued. There is hereby created a Parade and Assembly Appeals Board to conduct such hearings and to review and make determinations as authorized herein. The members of the Local Board of Tax Review, as established under Chapter 148-1, shall, for the purposes set forth herein, constitute such Parade and Assembly Appeals Board. The character of the Board and terms of office of its members shall be as prescribed in Codified Ordinance 148-1.18(A). (See ADMIN 160.02 for subpoena power)

- (1) Notice. Notice of the hearing before such Board shall be given to the applicant for the permit by telegram, night-letter or other form of delivery of a written notice of the date, place and hour of the hearing.
- (2) Decision. The Board shall reverse the decision of the Director and shall grant the permit applied for, without conditions, unless it finds that the rejection of the application, or the conditions imposed upon approval of the application, were based upon a valid and correct determination by the Director, supported by clear and convincing evidence presented to the Board, that resulting conditions would have unreasonably hindered use by the public of such street or highway or would have required the diversion of police or fire personnel so as to deprive the City of its normal protection. The decision of the Board shall be made and issued at a public meeting of that body held not later than three days after the administrative review hearing referred to above.
- (3) Judicial appeal. Decisions of this board shall constitute final administrative decisions so as to be subject to judicial review under Chapter 2506 of the Ohio Revised Code upon appeal to the court system by the applicant for such a permit. The applicant may combine such an appeal with a request for immediate restraining order and/or injunctive relief as authorized by the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure. The applicant shall be informed of this right of judicial review.  
(Ord. 4819. Passed 2-22-16.)

(h) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**311.03 ZONES OF QUIET.**

(a) Whenever authorized signs are erected indicating a zone of quiet, no person operating a vehicle within any such zone shall sound the horn or other warning device of such vehicle except in an emergency.

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**311.04 PLAY STREETS.**

(a) Whenever authorized signs are erected indicating any street or part thereof as a play street, no person shall drive a vehicle upon any such street or portion thereof except drivers having business or residences within that play area; and then such drivers shall exercise the greatest care in driving within that play area.

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**311.05 TOY VEHICLES UPON ROADWAY.**

(a) No person riding upon any coaster, roller skates, skate board, sled, toy vehicle, wagon or other similar device shall go upon any roadway except while crossing a street on a crosswalk; and when so crossing that person shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to pedestrians. This section shall not apply to any street while it is set aside as a play street under Section 311.04.

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**311.06 TRAFFIC IN AREAS ADJOINING GASOLINE FILLING STATIONS.**

In order to prevent traffic congestion caused by a back-up of vehicles attempting to enter onto the premises of a gasoline filling station, any entrance drive to such a business establishment shall be located not less than 200 feet from the nearest intersection (formed by the right-of-way liens of the nearest intersecting streets). In order to provide a safe and convenient means of exit for vehicles leaving such premises, the exit drives shall be located no less than 200 feet from the nearest intersection as defined above. These requirements shall not apply to existing exit drives of existing establishments of this nature.

**311.07 SPECIAL POLICE REQUIRED FOR COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS CREATING TRAFFIC PROBLEMS.**

Commercial establishments which by the nature of their merchandising techniques or location create particular traffic control hazards on public streets or create crowd control problems shall be required to hire special private policemen or private detectives when, in the opinion of the Chief of Police, such private policemen or detectives would help to control such problems.

**311.08 AUTHORITY OF REAL ESTATE OWNER TO CONTROL TRAFFIC ON THAT LAND.**

The provisions of this Traffic Code do not prevent the owner of real property (used by the public for purposes of vehicular traffic by permission of the owner and not as a matter of right) from prohibiting that use or from requiring conditions or types of performance in addition to those specified in the Traffic Code, or otherwise regulating such vehicular use in the manner which seems best to that owner.

**311.09 LITTERING.**

(a) No operator or occupant of a motor vehicle shall, regardless of intent, throw, drop, discard or deposit litter from any motor vehicle in operation upon any street, road or highway, except in a litter receptacle in a manner that prevents its being carried away or deposited by the elements.

(b) No operator of a motor vehicle while in operation on any street, road or highway shall allow litter to be thrown, dropped, discarded or deposited from the motor vehicle, except into a litter receptacle in a manner that prevents its being carried away or deposited by the elements.

(c) As used in this section, "litter" means garbage, trash, waste, rubbish, ashes, cans, bottles, wire, paper, cartons, boxes, automobile parts, furniture, glass, and anything else of an unsightly or unsanitary nature.

(d) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.





**CHAPTER 313**  
**Traffic Control Devices**

<p><b>313.01</b> Obedience to traffic control devices.</p> <p><b>313.02</b> Through streets; stop and yield right-of-way signs.</p> <p><b>313.021</b> Stop and yield signs.</p> <p><b>313.03</b> Traffic signal indications.</p> <p><b>313.04</b> Lane-use control signal indications.</p> <p><b>313.05</b> Special pedestrian control signals.</p> <p><b>313.06</b> Flashing traffic signals. (Repealed)</p>	<p><b>313.07</b> Unauthorized signs and signals, hiding from view, advertising.</p> <p><b>313.08</b> Alteration, injury, removal of traffic control devices.</p> <p><b>313.09</b> Driver's duties upon approaching ambiguous or non-working traffic signal.</p> <p><b>313.10</b> Unlawful purchase, possession or sale.</p> <p><b>313.11</b> Portable signal preemption devices prohibited.</p> <p><b>313.99</b> Penalty.</p>
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law

Designation of through streets or stop intersections - see Ohio R.C. 4511.07(F), 4511.65

Uniform system of traffic control devices - see Ohio R.C. 4511.09, 4511.11(D)

Placing and maintaining local traffic control devices - see Ohio R.C. 4511.10, 4511.11

Traffic control devices defined - TRAF. 301.46

**313.01 OBEDIENCE TO TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.**

(a) No pedestrian or driver of a vehicle shall disobey the instructions of any traffic control device placed in accordance with the provisions of this Traffic Code, unless at the time otherwise directed by a police officer.

No provisions of this Traffic Code for which signs are required shall be enforced against an alleged violator if at the time and place of the alleged violation an official sign is not in proper position and sufficiently legible to be seen by an ordinarily observant person. Whenever a particular section of this Traffic Code does not state that signs are required, that section shall be effective even though no signs are erected or in place.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.12)

**313.02 THROUGH STREETS; STOP AND YIELD RIGHT-OF-WAY SIGNS.**

(a) All State routes are hereby designated as through streets or highways, provided that stop signs, yield signs or traffic control signals shall be erected at all intersections with such through streets or highways, except as otherwise provided in this section. Where two or more State routes that are through streets or highways intersect and no traffic control signal is in operation, stop signs or yield signs shall be erected at one or more entrances thereto by the Ohio Department of Transportation, except as otherwise provided in this section.

Whenever the Ohio Director of Transportation determines on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that stop signs are necessary to stop traffic on a through highway for safe and efficient operation, nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent such installations. When circumstances warrant, the Director also may omit stop signs on roadways intersecting through highways under his jurisdiction. Before the Director either installs or removes a stop sign under this paragraph, he shall give notice, in writing, of that proposed action to the Municipality at least thirty days before installing or removing the stop sign.

(b) Other streets or highways or portions thereof, are hereby designated through streets or highways, if they are within the Municipality, if they have a continuous length of more than one mile between the limits of such street or highway or portion thereof, and if they have "stop" or "yield" signs or traffic control signals at the entrances of the majority of intersecting streets or highways. For purposes of this section, the limits of such street or highway or portion thereof, shall be a municipal corporation line, the physical terminus of the street or highway or any point on such street or highway at which vehicular traffic thereon is required by regulatory signs to stop or yield to traffic on the intersecting street, provided that in residence districts the Municipality may by ordinance designate such street or highway, or portion thereof, not to be a through highway and thereafter the affected residence district shall be indicated by official traffic control devices. Where two or more streets or highways designated under this subsection (b) intersect and no traffic control signal is in operation, stop signs or yield signs shall be erected at one or more entrances thereto by the Ohio Department of Transportation or by Council or the authorized local authority, except as otherwise provided in this section.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 333.09 for certain streets expressly declared not to be through streets.)

(c) Stop signs need not be erected at intersections so constructed as to permit traffic to safely enter a through street or highway without coming to a stop. Signs shall be erected at such intersections indicating that the operator of a vehicle shall yield the right of way to or merge with all traffic proceeding on the through street or highway.

(d) Council or the authorized local authority may designate additional through streets or highways and shall erect stop signs, yield signs or traffic control signals at all streets and highways intersecting such through streets or highways, or may designate any intersection as a stop or yield intersection and shall erect like signs at one or more entrances to such intersection. (ORC 4511.65)

**313.021 STOP AND YIELD SIGNS.**

(a) Every stop sign shall bear the word "stop" in letters not less than six inches in height. Every stop sign shall be located as near as practicable at the property line of the street or highway at the entrance to which the stop must be made, or at the nearest line of the crosswalk thereat, or, if none, at the nearest line of the roadway.  
(Ord. 2965. Passed 6-21-76.)

(b) See 313.02 as to placement of stop or yield signs with relationship to through streets and highways.

(c) As permitted by Ohio R.C. 4511.65(D) and 4511.07(F), the city may (by ordinance or by traffic regulation under Section 305.03) designate any intersection as a stop or yield intersection; and the City shall thereafter erect stop or yield signs at one or more entrances to that intersection.

### **313.03 TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL TERMS AND LIGHTS.**

Highway traffic signal indications for vehicles, and pedestrians shall have the following meanings:

(a) Steady Green Signal Indication:

- (1) A. Vehicular traffic facing a circular green signal indication is permitted to proceed straight through or turn right or left, or make a u-turn movement except as such movement is modified by a lane-use sign, turn prohibition sign, lane marking, roadway design, separate turn signal indication, or other traffic control device. Such vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left or making a u-turn movement, shall yield the right-of-way to both of the following:
  1. Pedestrians lawfully within an associated crosswalk;
  2. Other vehicles lawfully within the intersection.
- B. In addition, vehicular traffic turning left or making a u-turn movement to the left shall yield the right-of-way to other vehicles approaching from the opposite direction so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time when such turning vehicle is moving across or within the intersection.
- (2) Vehicular traffic facing a green arrow signal indication, displayed alone or in combination with another signal indication, is permitted to cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow, or such other movement as is permitted by other indications displayed at the same time. Such vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left or making a u-turn movement, shall yield the right-of-way to both of the following:
  - A. Pedestrians lawfully within an associated crosswalk.
  - B. Other traffic lawfully using the intersection.
- (3) A. Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian signal indication, as provided in Section 313.05, pedestrians facing a circular green signal indication are permitted to proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked associated crosswalk. The pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully within the intersection or so close as to create an immediate hazard at the time that the green signal indication is first displayed.
- B. Pedestrians facing a green arrow signal indication, unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian signal indication or other traffic control device, shall not cross the roadway.

(b) Steady Yellow Signal Indication:

- (1) Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular yellow signal indication is thereby warned that the related green movement or the related flashing arrow movement is being terminated or that a steady red signal indication will be exhibited immediately thereafter when vehicular traffic shall not enter the intersection. The provisions governing vehicular operation under the movement being terminated shall continue to apply while the steady circular yellow signal indication is displayed.

- (2) Vehicular traffic facing a steady yellow arrow signal indication is thereby warned that the related green arrow movement or the related flashing arrow movement is being terminated. The provisions governing vehicular operation under the movement being terminated shall continue to apply while the steady yellow arrow signal indication is displayed.
  - (3) Pedestrians facing a steady circular yellow or yellow arrow signal indication, unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian signal indication as provided in Section 313.05 or other traffic control device, shall not start to cross the roadway.
- (c) Steady Red Signal Indication:
- (1)
    - A. Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular red signal indication, unless entering the intersection to make another movement permitted by another signal indication, shall stop at a clearly marked stop line; but if there is no stop line, traffic shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection; or if there is no crosswalk, before then before entering the intersection; and shall remain stopped until a signal indication to proceed is displayed except as provided in subsections (c)(1), (2) and (3) of this section.
    - B. Except when a traffic control device is in place prohibiting a turn on red or a steady red arrow signal indication is displayed, vehicular traffic facing a steady circular red signal indication is permitted, after stopping, to enter the intersection to turn right, or to turn left from a one-way street into a one-way street. The right to proceed with the turn shall be subject to the provisions that are applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.
  - (2)
    - A. Vehicular traffic facing a steady red arrow signal indication shall not enter the intersection to make the movement indicated by the arrow and, unless entering the intersection to make another movement permitted by another signal indication, shall stop at a clearly marked stop line; but if there is no stop line, 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 stopped until a signal indication or other traffic control device permitting the movement indicated by such red arrow is displayed.
    - B. When a traffic control device is in place permitting a turn on a steady red arrow signal indication, vehicular traffic facing a steady red arrow indication is permitted, after stopping, to enter the intersection to turn right or to turn left from a one-way street into a one-way street. The right to proceed with the turn shall be limited to the direction indicated by the arrow, and shall be subject to the provisions that are applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.
  - (3) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian signal indication as provided in Section 313.05 or other traffic control device, pedestrians facing a steady circular red or steady red arrow signal indication shall not enter the roadway.

- (4) Local authorities by ordinance, or the Director of Transportation on State highways, may prohibit a right or a left turn against a steady red signal at any intersection, which shall be effective when signs giving notice thereof are posted at the intersection.
- (d) Flashing Green Signal Indication. A flashing green signal indication has no meaning and shall not be used.
- (e) Flashing Yellow Signal Indication:
- (1) A. Vehicular traffic, on an approach to an intersection, facing a flashing circular yellow signal indication, is permitted to cautiously enter the intersection to proceed straight through or turn right or left or make a u-turn movement except as such movement is modified by lane-use signs, turn prohibition signs, lane markings, roadway design, separate turn signal indications, or other traffic control devices. Such vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left or making a u-turn movement, shall yield the right-of-way to both of the following:
1. Pedestrians lawfully within an associated crosswalk;
  2. Other vehicles lawfully within the intersection.
- B. In addition, vehicular traffic turning left or making a u-turn to the left shall yield the right-of-way to other vehicles approaching from the opposite direction so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time when such turning vehicle is moving across or within the intersection.
- (2) A. Vehicular traffic, on an approach to an intersection, facing a flashing yellow arrow signal indication, displayed alone or in combination with another signal indication, is permitted to cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow, or other such movement as is permitted by other signal indications displayed at the same time. Such vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left or making a u-turn, shall yield the right-of-way to both of the following:
1. Pedestrians lawfully within an associated crosswalk;
  2. Other vehicles lawfully within the intersection.
- B. In addition, vehicular traffic turning left or making a u-turn to the left shall yield the right-of-way to other vehicles approaching from the opposite direction so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time when such turning vehicle is moving across or within the intersection.
- (3) Pedestrians facing any flashing yellow signal indication at an intersection, unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian signal indication or other traffic control device, are permitted to proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked associated crosswalk. Pedestrians shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully within the intersection at the time that the flashing yellow signal indication is first displayed.

- (4) When a flashing circular yellow signal indication is displayed as a beacon to supplement another traffic control device, road users are notified that there is a need to pay additional attention to the message contained thereon or that the regulatory or warning requirements of the other traffic control device, which might not be applicable at all times, are currently applicable.
- (f) Flashing Red Signal Indication:
- (1) Vehicular traffic, on an approach to an intersection, facing a flashing circular red signal indication, shall stop at a clearly marked stop line; but if there is no stop line, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection; or if there is no crosswalk, at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering the intersection. The right to proceed shall be subject to the provisions that are applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.
- (2) Pedestrians facing any flashing red signal indication at an intersection, unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian signal indication or other traffic control device, are permitted to proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked associated crosswalk. Pedestrians shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully within the intersection at the time that the flashing red signal indication is first displayed.
- (3) When a flashing circular red signal indication is displayed as a beacon to supplement another traffic control device, road users are notified that there is a need to pay additional attention to the message contained thereon or that the regulatory requirements of the other traffic control device, which might not be applicable at all times, are currently applicable. Use of this signal indication shall be limited to supplementing stop, do not enter, or wrong way signs, and to applications where compliance with the supplemented traffic control device requires a stop at a designated point.
- (g) General Application: 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 at the signal.
- (h) Exception. This section does not apply at railroad grade crossings. Conduct of drivers of vehicles approaching railroad grade crossings shall be governed by Ohio R.C. 4511.61 and 4511.62. (ORC 4511.13)

#### **313.04 LANE-USE CONTROL SIGNAL INDICATIONS.**

- (a) The meanings of lane-use control signal indications are as follows:
- (1) A steady downward green arrow: A road user is permitted to drive in the lane over which the arrow signal indication is located.
- (2) A steady yellow "X": A road user is to prepare to vacate the lane over which the signal indication is located because a lane control change is being made to a steady red "X" signal indication.
- (3) A steady white two-way left-turn arrow: A road user is permitted to use a lane over which the signal indication is located for a left turn, but not for through travel, with the understanding that common use of the lane by oncoming road users for left turns also is permitted.
- (4) A steady white one-way left-turn arrow: A road user is permitted to use a lane over which the signal indication is located for a left turn, without opposing turns in the same lane, but not for through travel.

- (5) A steady red "X": A road user is not permitted to use the lane over which the signal indication is located and that this signal indication shall modify accordingly the meaning of other traffic controls present.  
(ORC 4511.131)

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(ORC 4511.99)

### **313.05 SPECIAL PEDESTRIAN CONTROL SIGNALS.**

(a) Whenever special pedestrian control signals exhibiting the words "walk" or "don't walk", or the symbol of a walking person or an upraised palm are in place, such signals shall indicate the following instructions:

- (1) A steady walking person signal indication, which symbolizes "walk", means that a pedestrian facing the signal indication is permitted to start to cross the roadway in the direction of the signal indication, possibly in conflict with turning vehicles. The pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully within the intersection at the time that the walking person signal indication is first shown.
- (2) A flashing upraised hand signal indication, which symbolizes "don't walk", means that a pedestrian shall not start to cross the roadway in the direction of the signal indication, but that any pedestrian who has already started to cross on a steady walking person signal indication shall proceed to the far side of the traveled way of the street or highway, unless otherwise directed by a traffic control device to proceed only to the median of a divided highway or only to some other island or pedestrian refuge area.
- (3) A steady upraised hand signal indication means that a pedestrian shall not enter the roadway in the direction of the signal indication.
- (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to invalidate the continued use of pedestrian control signals utilizing the word "wait" if those signals were installed prior to March 28, 1985.
- (5) A flashing walking person signal indication has no meaning and shall not be used. (ORC 4511.14)

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(ORC 4511.99)

### **313.06 FLASHING TRAFFIC SIGNALS.**

(Former Ohio R.C. 4511.15 from which Section 313.06 was derived was repealed by House Bill 349, effective April 20, 2012.)

**313.07 UNAUTHORIZED SIGNS AND SIGNALS, HIDING FROM VIEW, ADVERTISING.**

(a) 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, is an imitation of or resembles a traffic control device or railroad sign or signal, or which attempts to direct the movement of traffic, or hides from view or interferes with the effectiveness of any traffic control device or any railroad sign or signal, and no person shall place or maintain, nor shall any public authority permit upon any street any traffic sign or signal bearing thereon any commercial advertising. This section does not prohibit either the erection upon private property adjacent to streets of signs giving useful directional information and of a type that cannot be mistaken for traffic control devices, or the erection upon private property of traffic control devices by the owner of real property in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4511.211 and 4511.432.

Every such prohibited sign, signal, marking or device is a public nuisance, and the Police Chief is authorized to remove it or cause it to be removed.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.16)

**313.08 ALTERATION, INJURY, REMOVAL OF TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.**

(a) No person without lawful authority, shall do any of the following:

- (1) Knowingly move, deface, damage, destroy or otherwise improperly tamper with any traffic control device, any railroad sign or signal, or any inscription, shield or insignia on the device, sign or signal, or any part of the device, sign or signal;
- (2) Knowingly drive upon or over any freshly applied pavement marking material on the surface of a roadway while the marking material is in an undried condition and is marked by flags, markers, signs or other devices intended to protect it;
- (3) Knowingly move, damage, destroy or otherwise improperly tamper with a manhole cover.

(b) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates subsection (a)(1) or (3) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. If a violation of subsection (a)(1) or (3) of this section creates a risk of physical harm to any person, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. If a violation of subsection (a)(1) or (3) of this section causes serious physical harm to property that is owned, leased, or controlled by a state or local authority, the offender is guilty of a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate state law.



- (2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates subsection (a)(2) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates subsection (a)(2) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates subsection (a)(2) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(ORC 4511.17)

### **313.09 DRIVER'S DUTIES UPON APPROACHING AMBIGUOUS OR NON-WORKING TRAFFIC SIGNAL.**

(a) The driver of a vehicle who approaches an intersection where traffic is controlled by traffic control signals shall do all of the following if the signal facing the driver exhibits no colored lights or colored lighted arrows, exhibits a combination of such lights or arrows that fails to clearly indicate the assignment of right of way, or, if the vehicle is a bicycle or an electric bicycle, the signals are otherwise malfunctioning due to the failure of a vehicle detector to detect the presence of the bicycle or electric bicycle.

- (1) Stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or, if none, stop before entering the intersection;
- (2) Yield the right of way to all vehicles in the intersection or approaching on an intersecting road, if the vehicles will constitute an immediate hazard during the time the driver is moving across or within the intersection or junction of roadways.
- (3) Exercise ordinary care while proceeding through the intersection.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.132)

### **313.10 UNLAWFUL PURCHASE, POSSESSION OR SALE.**

(a) As used in this section, "traffic control device" means any sign, traffic control signal or other device conforming to and placed or erected in accordance with the manual adopted under Ohio R.C. 4511.09 by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction, for the purpose of regulating, warning or guiding traffic, including signs denoting the names of streets and highways, but does not mean any pavement marking.

(b) No individual shall buy or otherwise possess or sell, a traffic control device, except when one of the following applies:

- (1) In the course of the individual's employment by the State or a local authority for the express or implied purpose of manufacturing, providing, erecting, moving or removing such a traffic control device;
- (2) In the course of the individual's employment by any manufacturer of traffic control devices other than a State or local authority;

- (3) For the purpose of demonstrating the design and function of a traffic control device to State or local officials;
- (4) When the traffic control device has been purchased from the State or a local authority at a sale of property that is no longer needed or is unfit for use;
- (5) The traffic control device has been properly purchased from a manufacturer for use on private property and the person possessing the device has a sales receipt for the device or other acknowledgment of sale issued by the manufacturer.

(c) This section does not preclude, and shall not be construed as precluding, prosecution for theft in violation of Ohio R.C. 2913.02 or a municipal ordinance relating to theft, or for receiving stolen property in violation of Ohio R.C. 2913.51 or a municipal ordinance relating to receiving stolen property.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(ORC 4511.18)

### **313.11 PORTABLE SIGNAL PREEMPTION DEVICES PROHIBITED.**

- (a)
  - (1) No person shall possess a portable signal preemption device.
  - (2) No person shall use a portable signal preemption device to affect the operation of a traffic control signal.

(b) Subsection (a)(1) of this section does not apply to any of the following persons and subsection (a)(2) of this section does not apply to any of the following persons when responding to an emergency call:

- (1) A peace officer, as defined in Ohio R.C. 109.71(A)(11), (12), (14) or (19);
- (2) A State highway patrol trooper;
- (3) A person while occupying a public safety vehicle as defined in Ohio R.C. 4511.01(E)(1), (3) or (4).

(c) Whoever violates subsection (a)(1) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. Whoever violates subsection (a)(2) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(d) As used in this section, "portable signal preemption device" means a device that, if activated by a person, is capable of changing a traffic control signal to green out of sequence.  
(ORC 4511.031)

**TITLE FIVE - Vehicles**

- Chap. 331. Operation Generally.
- Chap. 333. OVI; Willful Misconduct; Speed.
- Chap. 335. Licensing; Accidents.
- Chap. 337. Safety and Equipment.
- Chap. 339. Commercial and Heavy Vehicles.
- Chap. 341. Commercial Drivers.
- Chap. 343. Interfering With Buses.

**CHAPTER 331  
Operation Generally**

- |                |  |               |  |
|----------------|--|---------------|--|
| <b>331.01</b>  | <b>Driving upon right side of roadway; exceptions.</b>                           | <b>331.22</b> | <b>Driving onto roadway from place other than roadway: duty to yield.</b>        |
| <b>331.02</b>  | <b>Passing to right when proceeding in opposite directions.</b>                  | <b>331.23</b> | <b>Driving onto roadway from place other than roadway; stopping at sidewalk.</b> |
| <b>331.03</b>  | <b>Overtaking, passing to left; driver's duties.</b>                             | <b>331.24</b> | <b>Right of way of funeral procession.</b>                                       |
| <b>331.04</b>  | <b>Overtaking and passing upon right.</b>  | <b>331.25</b> | <b>Driver's view and control to be unobstructed by load or persons.</b>          |
| <b>331.05</b>  | <b>Overtaking, passing to left of center.</b>                                    | <b>331.26</b> | <b>Driving upon street posted as closed for repair.</b>                          |
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| <b>331.17</b>  | <b>Right of way when turning left.</b>   |               |  |
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| <b>331.21</b>  | <b>Right of way of public safety or coroner's vehicle.</b>                       |               |  |
| <b>331.211</b> | <b>Report of vehicle failing to yield right of way to public safety vehicle.</b> |               |  |

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| <p><b>331.38 Stopping for school bus; discharging children.</b></p> <p><b>331.39 Driving on a Class I Bikeway.</b></p> | <p><b>331.40 Shortcutting; avoiding traffic control devices.</b></p> <p><b>331.41 Wearing earplugs or earphones prohibited.</b></p> <p><b>331.42 Vehicular operation on street closed due to rise in water level.</b></p> |
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#### CROSS REFERENCES

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Obedience to traffic control devices - see TRAF. 313.01  
 Operation of bicycles and motorcycles - see TRAF. 373.01  
 et seq.  
 School bus operation - see OAC Ch. 4501-3

#### **331.01 DRIVING UPON RIGHT SIDE OF ROADWAY; EXCEPTIONS.**

- (a) Upon all roadways of sufficient width, a vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the roadway, except as follows:
- (1) When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction, or when making a left turn under the rules governing such movements;
  - (2) When an obstruction exists making it necessary to drive to the left of the center of the highway; provided, any person so doing shall yield the right of way to all vehicles traveling in the proper direction upon the unobstructed portion of the highway within such distance as to constitute an immediate hazard;
  - (3) When driving upon a roadway divided into three or more marked lanes for traffic under the rules applicable thereon;
  - (4) When driving upon a roadway designated and posted with signs for one-way traffic;
  - (5) When otherwise directed by a police officer or traffic control device.
- (b) (1) Upon all roadways any vehicle proceeding at less than the prevailing and lawful speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven in the right-hand lane then available for traffic, and far enough to the right to allow passing by faster vehicles if such passing is safe and reasonable, except under any of the following circumstances:
- A. When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction;
  - B. When preparing for a left turn;
  - C. When the driver must necessarily drive in a lane other than the right-hand lane to continue on the driver's intended route.
- (2) Nothing in subsection (b)(1) of this section requires a driver of a slower vehicle to compromise the driver's safety to allow overtaking by a faster vehicle.

(c) Upon any roadway having four or more lanes for moving traffic and providing for two-way movement of traffic, no vehicle shall be driven to the left of the center line of the roadway, except when authorized by official traffic control devices designating certain lanes to the left of the center of the roadway for use by traffic not otherwise permitted to use the lanes, or except as permitted under subsection (a) (2) hereof.

This subsection shall not be construed as prohibiting the crossing of the center line in making a left turn into or from an alley, private road or driveway.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.25)

### **331.02 PASSING TO RIGHT WHEN PROCEEDING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS.**

(a) Operators of vehicles proceeding in opposite directions shall pass each other to the right, and upon roadways having width for not more than one line of traffic in each direction, each operator shall give to the other one-half of the main traveled portion of the roadway or as nearly one-half as is reasonably possible.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.26)

### **331.03 OVERTAKING, PASSING TO LEFT; DRIVER'S DUTIES.**

(a) The following rules govern the overtaking and passing of vehicles proceeding in the same direction:

- (1) The operator of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall, except as provided in subsection (a)(3) hereof, signal to the vehicle to be overtaken, shall pass to the left thereof at a safe distance, and shall not again drive to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle. When a motor vehicle overtakes and passes a bicycle or electric bicycle, three feet or greater is considered a safe passing distance.
- (2) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the operator of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle at the latter's audible signal, and the operator shall not increase the speed of the operator's vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

- (3) The operator of a vehicle overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction on a divided street or highway as defined in Section 331.31, a limited access highway as defined in Ohio R.C. 5511.02 or a highway with four or more traffic lanes, is not required to signal audibly to the vehicle being overtaken and passed.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.27)

#### **331.04 OVERTAKING AND PASSING UPON RIGHT.**

(a) The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the right of another vehicle only under the following conditions:

- (1) When the vehicle overtaken is making or about to make a left turn;
- (2) Upon a roadway with unobstructed pavement of sufficient width for two or more lines of vehicles moving lawfully in the direction being traveled by the overtaking vehicle.

(b) The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle only under conditions permitting such movement in safety. The movement shall not be made by driving off the roadway.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.28)

#### **331.05 OVERTAKING, PASSING TO LEFT OF CENTER.**

(a) No vehicle shall be driven to the left of the center of the roadway in overtaking and passing traffic proceeding in the same direction, unless such left side is clearly visible and is free of oncoming traffic for a sufficient distance ahead to permit such overtaking and passing to be completely made, without interfering with the safe operation of any traffic approaching from the opposite direction or any traffic overtaken. In every event the overtaking vehicle must return to an authorized lane of travel as soon as practicable and in the event the passing movement involves the use of a lane authorized for traffic approaching from the opposite direction before coming within 200 feet of any approaching vehicle.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.29)

### **331.06 ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON DRIVING UPON LEFT SIDE OF ROADWAY.**

(a) No vehicle shall be driven upon the left side of the roadway under the following conditions:

- (1) When approaching the crest of a grade or upon a curve in the highway, where the operator's view is obstructed within such a distance as to create a hazard in the event traffic might approach from the opposite direction;
- (2) When the view is obstructed upon approaching within 100 feet of any bridge, viaduct or tunnel;
- (3) When approaching within 100 feet of or traversing any intersection or railroad grade crossing.

(b) This section does not apply to vehicles upon a one-way roadway, upon a roadway where traffic is lawfully directed to be driven to the left side or under the conditions described in Section 331.01(a)(2).

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.30)

### **331.07 HAZARDOUS OR NO PASSING ZONES.**

(a) Hazardous zones, commonly called "no passing zones," shall consist of an auxiliary yellow line marked on the roadway pavement and placed parallel to the normal center line or marked lane line. When the auxiliary yellow line appears on the left side in the driver's lane of travel and to the right of the normal center line or marked lane line, no driver shall drive across the auxiliary yellow line to overtake and pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction. When auxiliary yellow lines appear on both sides of the normal center line or marked lane line, drivers proceeding in either direction shall not drive across such auxiliary yellow lines to overtake and pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction. No driver shall, at any other time, drive across the yellow auxiliary line when it appears in the driver's lane of travel, except to make a lawfully permitted left-hand turn under the rules governing such movement. No passing signs may also be erected facing traffic to indicate the beginning and end of each no passing zone.

When appropriate signs or markings indicating hazardous or no passing zones are in place and clearly visible, every operator of a vehicle shall obey the directions of the signs or markings, notwithstanding the distance set out in Section 331.06.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply when all of the following apply:

- (1) The slower vehicle is proceeding at less than half the speed of the speed limit applicable to that location.
- (2) The faster vehicle is capable of overtaking and passing the slower vehicle without exceeding the speed limit.

- (3) There is sufficient clear sight distance to the left of the center or center line of the roadway to meet the overtaking and passing provisions of Section 331.05, considering the speed of the slower vehicle.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.31)

### **331.08 DRIVING IN MARKED LANES OR CONTINUOUS LINES OF TRAFFIC.**

(a) Whenever any roadway has been divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for traffic or wherever traffic is lawfully moving in two or more substantially continuous lines in the same direction, the following rules apply:

- (1) A vehicle shall be driven, as nearly as is practicable, entirely within a single lane or line of traffic and shall not be moved from such lane or line until the driver has first ascertained that such movement can be made with safety.
- (2) Upon a roadway which is divided into three lanes and provides for two-way movement of traffic, a vehicle shall not be driven in the center lane except when overtaking and passing another vehicle where the roadway is clearly visible and such center lane is clear of traffic within a safe distance, or when preparing for a left turn, or where such center lane is at the time allocated exclusively to traffic moving in the direction the vehicle is proceeding and is posted with signs to give notice of such allocation.
- (3) Official signs may be erected directing specified traffic to use a designated lane or designating those lanes to be used by traffic moving in a particular direction regardless of the center of the roadway, or restricting the use of a particular lane to only buses during certain hours or during all hours, and drivers of vehicles shall obey the directions of such signs.
- (4) Official traffic control devices may be installed prohibiting the changing of lanes on sections of roadway and drivers of vehicles shall obey the directions of every such device.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.33)



**331.09 FOLLOWING TOO CLOSELY.**

(a) The operator of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicle and the traffic upon and the condition of the highway.

The driver of any truck, or motor vehicle drawing another vehicle, when traveling upon a roadway outside a business or residence district shall maintain a sufficient space, whenever conditions permit, between such vehicle and another vehicle ahead so an overtaking motor vehicle may enter and occupy such space without danger. This paragraph does not prevent overtaking and passing nor does it apply to any lane specially designated for use by trucks.

Motor vehicles being driven upon any roadway outside of a business or residence district in a caravan or motorcade, shall maintain a sufficient space between such vehicles so an overtaking vehicle may enter and occupy such space without danger. This paragraph shall not apply to funeral processions.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.34)

**331.10 TURNING AT INTERSECTIONS.**

(a) The driver of a vehicle intending to turn at an intersection shall be governed by the following rules:

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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 such center line where it enters the intersection and after entering the intersection the left turn shall be made so as to leave the intersection to the right of the center line of the roadway being entered. Whenever practicable the left turn shall be made in that portion of the intersection to the left of the center of the intersection.
- (3) 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 such 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 of the roadway being entered lawfully available to the traffic moving in that lane.
- (4) Markers, buttons or signs may be placed within or adjacent to intersections and thereby require and direct that a different course from that specified in this section be traveled by vehicles turning at an intersection, and when such markers, buttons or signs are so placed, no operator of a vehicle shall turn such vehicle at an intersection other than as directed and required by such markers, buttons or signs.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.36)

### **331.11 TURNING INTO PRIVATE DRIVEWAY, ALLEY OR BUILDING.**

(a) The driver of a vehicle intending to turn into a private road or driveway, alley or building from a public street or highway shall be governed by the following rules:

- (1) 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.
- (2) Upon a roadway where traffic is proceeding in opposite directions, approach for a left turn and a left turn shall be made from that portion of the right half of the roadway nearest the center line thereof.
- (3) Upon a roadway where traffic is restricted to one direction, approach for a left turn and a left turn shall be made as close as practicable to the left-hand curb or edge of the roadway.

It shall be the duty of the driver of any vehicle entering a private road or driveway, alley or building to yield the right of way to pedestrians lawfully using the sidewalk or sidewalk area extending across any alleyway, private road, driveway or building.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

### **331.12 "U" TURNS RESTRICTED.**

(a) Except as provided in Section 313.03 and subsection (b) hereof, no vehicle shall be turned so as to proceed in the opposite direction upon any curve, or upon the approach to or near the crest of a grade, if the vehicle cannot be seen within 500 feet by the driver of any other vehicle approaching from either direction.

(b) The driver of an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, may turn the vehicle so as to proceed in the opposite direction. This subsection applies only when the emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle is responding to an emergency call, is equipped with and displaying at least one flashing, rotating or oscillating light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle, and when the driver of the vehicle is giving an audible signal by siren, exhaust whistle or bell. This subsection does not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property upon the highway.  
(ORC 4511.37)

(c) Except as provided in subsection (b) hereof, no vehicle shall be turned so as to proceed in the opposite direction within an intersection, or upon any street in a business district, or upon a freeway, expressway or controlled-access highway, or where authorized signs are erected to prohibit such movement, or at any other location unless such movement can be made with reasonable safety to other users of the street and without interfering with the safe operation of any traffic that may be affected by such movement.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.37)

### **331.13 STARTING AND BACKING VEHICLES.**

(a) No person shall start a vehicle which is stopped, standing or parked until such movement can be made with reasonable safety.

Before backing, operators of vehicles shall give ample warning, and while backing they shall exercise vigilance not to injure person or property on the street or highway.

No person shall back a motor vehicle on a freeway, except: in a rest area; in the performance of public works or official duties; as a result of an emergency caused by an accident or breakdown of a motor vehicle.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.38)

### **331.14 SIGNALS BEFORE CHANGING COURSE, TURNING OR STOPPING.**

(a) No person shall turn a vehicle or move right or left upon a highway unless and until such person has exercised due care to ascertain that the movement can be made with reasonable safety nor without giving an appropriate signal in the manner hereinafter provided.

When required, a signal of intention to turn or move right or left shall be given continuously during not less than the last 100 feet traveled by the vehicle before turning, except that in the case of a person operating a bicycle or electric bicycle, the signal shall be made not less than one time but is not required to be continuous. A bicycle or electric bicycle operator is not required to make a signal if the bicycle or electric bicycle is in a designated turn lane, and a signal shall not be given when the operator's hands are needed for the safe operation of the bicycle or electric bicycle.

No person shall stop or suddenly decrease the speed of a vehicle without first giving an appropriate signal in the manner provided herein to the driver of any vehicle immediately to the rear when there is opportunity to give a signal.

Any stop or turn signal required by this section shall be given either by means of the hand and arm, or by signal lights that clearly indicate to both approaching and following traffic intention to turn or move right or left, except that any motor vehicle in use on a highway shall be equipped with, and the required signal shall be given by, signal lights when the distance from the center of the top of the steering post to the left outside limit of the body, cab or load of such motor vehicle exceeds twenty-four inches, or when the distance from the center of the top of the steering post to the rear limit of the body or load thereof exceeds fourteen feet, whether a single vehicle or a combination of vehicles.

The signal lights required by this section shall not be flashed on one side only on a disabled vehicle, flashed as a courtesy or "do pass" signal to operators of other vehicles approaching from the rear, nor be flashed on one side only of a parked vehicle except as may be necessary for compliance with this section.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.39)

### **331.15 HAND AND ARM SIGNALS.**

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) hereof, all signals required by this Traffic Code, when given by hand and arm shall be given from the left side of the vehicle in the following manner, and such signals shall indicate as follows:

- (1) Left turn: Hand and arm extended horizontally;
- (2) Right turn: Hand and arm extended upward;
- (3) Stop or decrease speed: Hand and arm extended downward.

(b) As an alternative to subsection (a)(2) hereof, a person operating a bicycle or electric bicycle may give a right turn signal by extending the right hand and arm horizontally and to the right side of the bicycle or electric bicycle.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.40)

### **331.16 RIGHT OF WAY AT INTERSECTIONS.**

(a) When two vehicles approach or enter an intersection from different streets or highways at approximately the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left shall yield the right of way to the vehicle on the right.

(b) The right of way rule declared in subsection (a) hereof, is modified at through highways and otherwise as stated in this Traffic Code and Ohio R.C. Chapter 4511. (ORC 4511.41)

(c) Subject to compliance with any traffic control device, when two vehicles approach or enter a junction of two or more alleys from different directions at approximately the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left shall yield the right of way to the vehicle on the right.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.41)

### **331.17 RIGHT OF WAY WHEN TURNING LEFT.**

(a) The operator of a vehicle intending to turn to the left within an intersection or into an alley, private road or driveway shall yield the right of way to any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction, whenever the approaching vehicle is within the intersection or so close to the intersection, alley, private road or driveway as to constitute an immediate hazard.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.42)

### **331.18 OPERATION OF VEHICLE AT YIELD SIGNS.**

(a) Except when directed to proceed by a law enforcement officer, every driver of a vehicle approaching a yield sign shall slow down to a speed reasonable for the existing conditions and, if required for safety to stop, shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, if any, but if there is no stop line, shall stop before entering any crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or if there is no crosswalk, shall stop at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driveway has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering it. After slowing or stopping, the driver shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching it on another roadway so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time the driver is moving across or within the intersection or junction of roadways. Whenever a driver is involved in a collision with a vehicle in the intersection or junction of roadways, after driving past a yield sign without stopping, the collision shall be prima-facie evidence of the driver's failure to yield the right-of-way. (Ord. 3577. Passed 9-15-86.)

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code.  
(ORC 4511.43(B))

**331.19 OPERATION OF VEHICLE AT STOP SIGNS.**

(a) Except when directed to proceed by a law enforcement officer, every driver of a vehicle approaching a stop sign shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, if any, but if there is no such line, shall stop before entering any crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, but if there is no such crosswalk, shall stop at the stop sign itself. If, however, a clear and safe view of the intersection and approaching traffic is not available to the driver at the stop line, crosswalk or stop sign, then the driver shall stop at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver does have a view of approaching traffic on that roadway before entering it. After having stopped the driver shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another roadway so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time the driver is moving across or within the intersection or junction of roadways.  
(Ord. 3577. Passed 9-15-86.)

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code.  
(ORC 4511.43(A))

**331.20 EMERGENCY OR PUBLIC SAFETY VEHICLES AT STOP SIGNALS OR SIGNS.**

(a) The driver of any emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, upon approaching a red or stop signal or any stop sign shall slow down as necessary for safety to traffic, but may proceed cautiously past such red or stop sign or signal with due regard for the safety of all persons using the street or highway.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.03)

**331.21 RIGHT OF WAY OF PUBLIC SAFETY OR CORONER'S VEHICLE.**

(a) Upon the approach of a public safety vehicle or coroner's vehicle, equipped with at least one flashing, rotating or oscillating light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle and the driver is giving an audible signal by siren, exhaust whistle or bell, no driver of any other vehicle shall fail to yield the right-of-way, immediately drive if practical to a position parallel to and as close as possible to, the right edge or curb of the street clear of any intersection, and stop and remain in that position until the public safety vehicle or coroner's vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

(b) This section does not relieve the driver of a public safety vehicle or coroner's vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property upon the street.

(c) This section applies to a coroner's vehicle only when the vehicle is operated in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4513.171. As used in this section, "coroner's vehicle" means a vehicle used by a coroner, deputy coroner or coroner's investigator that is equipped with a flashing, oscillating or rotating red or blue light and a siren, exhaust whistle, or bell capable of giving an audible signal.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection or Section 331.211, whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree on a first offense. On a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree, and, on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree. (ORC 4511.45)

### **331.211 REPORT OF VEHICLE FAILING TO YIELD RIGHT OF WAY TO PUBLIC SAFETY VEHICLE.**

(a) When the failure of a motor vehicle operator to yield the right-of-way to a public safety vehicle as required by Section 331.21(a) impedes the ability of the public safety vehicle to respond to an emergency, any emergency personnel in the public safety vehicle may report the license plate number and a general description of the vehicle and the operator of the vehicle to the law enforcement agency exercising jurisdiction over the area where the alleged violation occurred.

- (b) (1) Upon receipt of a report under subsection (a) of this section, the law enforcement agency may conduct an investigation to attempt to determine or confirm the identity of the operator of the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation.
- (2) If the identity of the operator at the time of an alleged violation of Section 331.21(a) is established, the law enforcement agency has probable cause to issue either a written warning or a citation for that violation, and the agency shall issue a written warning or a citation to the operator.
- (3) If the identity of the operator of the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation cannot be established, the law enforcement agency may issue a warning to the person who owned the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation. However, in the case of a leased or rented vehicle, the law enforcement agency shall issue the written warning to the person who leased or rented the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation.
- (c) (1) Whoever violates Section 331.21(a) based on a report filed under subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor and shall be fined one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).
- (2) If a person who is issued a citation for a violation of Section 331.21(a) based on a report filed under subsection (a) of this section does not enter a written plea of guilty and does not waive the person's right to contest the citation but instead appears in person in the proper court to answer the charge, the trier of fact cannot find beyond a reasonable doubt that the person committed that violation unless the emergency personnel who filed the report appears in person in the court and testifies.
- (d) As used in this section:
- (1) "License plate" includes any temporary license placard issued under Ohio R.C. 4503.182 or similar law of another jurisdiction.

- (2) "Public safety vehicle" does not include an unmarked public safety vehicle or a vehicle used by a public law enforcement officer or other person sworn to enforce the criminal and traffic laws of the State or a vehicle used by the Motor Carrier Enforcement Unit for the enforcement of orders and rules of the Public Utilities Commission. (ORC 4511.454)

**331.22 DRIVING ONTO ROADWAY FROM PLACE OTHER THAN ROADWAY: DUTY TO YIELD.**

(a) Subject to compliance with any traffic control device, the operator of a vehicle about to enter or cross a highway from an alley or from any place other than another roadway shall yield the right of way to all traffic approaching on the roadway to be entered or crossed.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.44)

**331.23 DRIVING ONTO ROADWAY FROM PLACE OTHER THAN ROADWAY: STOPPING AT SIDEWALK.**

(a) Subject to compliance with any traffic control device, the driver of a vehicle emerging from an alley, building, private road or driveway within a business or residence district shall stop the vehicle immediately prior to driving onto a sidewalk or onto the sidewalk area extending across the alley, building entrance, road or driveway, or in the event there is no sidewalk area, shall stop at the point nearest the street to be entered where the driver has a view of approaching traffic thereon.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.431)

**331.24 RIGHT OF WAY OF FUNERAL PROCESSION.**

(a) As used in this section "funeral procession" means two or more vehicles accompanying the cremated remains or the body of a deceased person in the daytime when each of the vehicles has its headlights lighted and is displaying a purple and white or an orange and white pennant attached to each vehicle in such a manner as to be clearly visible to traffic approaching from any direction.



(b) Excepting public safety vehicles proceeding in accordance with Section 331.21 or when directed otherwise by a police officer, pedestrians and the operators of all vehicles shall yield the right of way to each vehicle that is a part of a funeral procession. Whenever the lead vehicle in a funeral procession lawfully enters an intersection, the remainder of the vehicles in the procession may continue to follow the lead vehicle through the intersection notwithstanding any traffic control devices or right-of-way provisions of this Traffic Code, provided that the operator of each vehicle exercises due care to avoid colliding with any other vehicle or pedestrian.

(c) No person shall operate any vehicle as a part of a funeral procession without having the headlights of the vehicle lighted and without displaying a purple and white or an orange and white pennant in such a manner as to be clearly visible to traffic approaching from any direction.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.451)

### **331.25 DRIVER'S VIEW AND CONTROL TO BE UNOBSTRUCTED BY LOAD OR PERSONS.**

(a) No person shall drive a vehicle when it is so loaded, or when there are in the front seat such number of persons, as to obstruct the view of the driver to the front or sides of the vehicle or to interfere with the driver's control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle.

(b) No passenger in a vehicle shall ride in such position as to interfere with the driver's view ahead or to the sides, or to interfere with the driver's control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.70(A),(B),(D))

### **331.26 DRIVING UPON STREET POSTED AS CLOSED FOR REPAIR.**

(a) No person shall drive upon, along or across a street or highway, or any part of a street or highway that has been closed in the process of its construction, reconstruction or repair, and posted with appropriate signs by the authority having jurisdiction to close such street or highway.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.71)

### **331.27 FOLLOWING AND PARKING NEAR EMERGENCY OR SAFETY VEHICLES.**

(a) The driver of any vehicle, other than an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle on official business, shall not follow any emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle traveling in response to an alarm closer than 500 feet, or drive into or park such vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm, unless directed to do so by a police officer or a firefighter.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.72)

### **331.28 DRIVING OVER FIRE HOSE.**

(a) No vehicle shall, without the consent of the Fire Chief or fire official in command, be driven over any unprotected fire hose that is laid down on any street or private driveway to be used at any fire or alarm of fire.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.73)

### **331.29 DRIVING THROUGH SAFETY ZONE.**

(a) No vehicle shall at any time be driven through or within a safety zone.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.60)

**331.30 ONE-WAY STREETS AND ROTARY TRAFFIC ISLANDS.**

(a) Upon a roadway designated and posted with signs for one-way traffic a vehicle shall be driven only in the direction designated. A vehicle passing around a rotary traffic island shall be driven only to the right of the rotary traffic island.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.32)

**331.31 DRIVING UPON DIVIDED ROADWAYS.**

(a) Whenever any street has been divided into two roadways by an intervening space, or by a physical barrier, or clearly indicated dividing section so constructed as to impede vehicular traffic, every vehicle shall be driven only upon the right-hand roadway, and no vehicle shall be driven over, across or within any such dividing space, barrier or median section, except through an opening, crossover or intersection established by public authority. This section does not prohibit the occupancy of such dividing space, barrier or median section for the purpose of an emergency stop or in compliance with an order of a police officer.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.35)

**331.32 ENTERING AND EXITING CONTROLLED-ACCESS HIGHWAY.**

(a) No person shall drive a vehicle onto or from any controlled-access highway except at such entrances and exits as are established by public authority.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**331.33 OBSTRUCTING INTERSECTION, CROSSWALK OR GRADE CROSSING.**

(a) No driver shall enter an intersection or marked crosswalk or drive onto any railroad grade crossing unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection, crosswalk or grade crossing to accommodate the vehicle the driver is operating without obstructing the passage of other vehicles, pedestrians or railroad trains, notwithstanding any traffic control signal indication to proceed.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.712)

### **331.34 FAILURE TO CONTROL; WEAVING; FULL TIME AND ATTENTION.**

(a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle upon any street, highway, or property open to the public for vehicular traffic without being in reasonable control of such vehicle. (See 333.02 for reckless operation.) (Ord. 3548. Passed 4-14-86.)

(b) No person shall operate a vehicle in a weaving or zigzag course unless such irregular course is necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

(c) No person shall operate a vehicle without giving his full time and attention to the operation of such vehicle.

(d) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

### **331.35 OCCUPYING A MOVING TRAILER OR MANUFACTURED OR MOBILE HOME.**

(a) No person shall occupy any travel trailer or manufactured or mobile home while it is being used as a conveyance upon a street or highway.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.701)

### **331.36 SQUEALING TIRES, "PEELING," CRACKING EXHAUST NOISES.**

(a) No person shall unnecessarily race the motor of any vehicle and no person shall operate any motor vehicle, except in an emergency, in such a manner that the vehicle is so rapidly accelerated or started from a stopped position that the exhaust system emits a loud, cracking or chattering noise unusual to its normal operation, or whereby the tires of such vehicle squeal or leave tire marks on the roadway, commonly called "peeling".

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**331.37 DRIVING UPON SIDEWALKS, STREET LAWNS OR CURBS.**

(a) No person shall drive a vehicle on a sidewalk, street lawn area or the curb of a street, boulevard or other public property, except when entering or leaving a permanent or temporary driveway or when lawfully authorized. (Ord. 4740. Passed 11-7-11.)

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code.

**331.38 STOPPING FOR SCHOOL BUS; DISCHARGING CHILDREN.**

(a) The driver of a vehicle upon meeting or overtaking from either direction any school bus stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school child, person attending programs offered by community boards of mental health and County boards of developmental disabilities, or child attending a program offered by a head start agency, shall stop at least ten feet from the front or rear of the school bus and shall not proceed until such school bus resumes motion, or until signaled by the school bus driver to proceed.

It is no defense to a charge under this subsection (a) hereof that the school bus involved failed to display or be equipped with an automatically extended stop warning sign as required by subsection (b) hereof.

(b) Every school bus shall be equipped with amber and red visual signals meeting the requirements of Ohio R.C. 4511.771, and an automatically extended stop warning sign of a type approved by the State Board of Education, which shall be actuated by the driver of the bus whenever but only whenever the bus is stopped or stopping on the roadway for the purpose of receiving or discharging school children, persons attending programs offered by community boards of mental health and County boards of developmental disabilities, or children attending programs offered by head start agencies. A school bus driver shall not actuate the visual signals or the stop warning sign in designated school bus loading areas where the bus is entirely off the roadway or at school buildings when children or persons attending programs offered by community boards of mental health and County boards of developmental disabilities are loading or unloading at curbside or at buildings when children attending programs offered by head start agencies are boarding or unloading at curbside. The visual signals and stop warning sign shall be synchronized or otherwise operated as required by rule of the Board.

(c) Where a highway has been divided into four or more traffic lanes, a driver of a vehicle need not stop for a school bus approaching from the opposite direction which has stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging any school child, persons attending programs offered by community boards of mental health and County boards of developmental disabilities, or children attending programs offered by head start agencies. The driver of any vehicle overtaking the school bus shall comply with subsection (a) hereof.

(d) School buses operating on divided highways or on highways with four or more traffic lanes shall receive and discharge all school children, persons attending programs offered by community boards of mental health and County boards of developmental disabilities, and children attending programs offered by head start agencies on their residence side of the highway.

(e) No school bus driver shall start the driver's bus until after any child, person attending programs offered by community boards of mental health and County boards of developmental disabilities, or child attending a program offered by a head start agency who may have alighted therefrom has reached a place of safety on the child or person's residence side of the road.

(f) As used in this section:

(1) "Head start agency" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 3301.32.

(2) "School bus", as used in relation to children who attend a program offered by a head start agency, means a bus that is owned and operated by a head start agency, is equipped with an automatically extended stop warning sign of a type approved by the State Board of Education, is painted the color and displays the markings described in Ohio R.C. 4511.77, and is equipped with amber and red visual signals meeting the requirements of Ohio R.C. 4511.771, irrespective of whether or not the bus has fifteen or more children aboard at any time. "School bus" does not include a van owned and operated by a head start agency, irrespective of its color, lights, or markings.

(g) (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section may be fined an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00). A person who is issued a citation for a violation of subsection (a) of this section is not permitted to enter a written plea of guilty and waive the person's right to contest the citation in a trial but instead must appear in person in the proper court to answer the charge.

(2) In addition to and independent of any other penalty provided by law, the court or mayor may impose upon an offender who violates this section a class seven suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (a)(7) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02. When a license is suspended under this section, the court or mayor shall cause the offender to deliver the license to the court, and the court or clerk of the court immediately shall forward the license to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, together with notice of the court's action. (ORC 4511.75)

### **331.39 DRIVING ON A CLASS I BIKEWAY.**

(a) No person shall operate a vehicle on a Class I Bikeway unless such vehicle is a two-wheeled vehicle propelled exclusively by human power. (Ord. 2911. Passed 3-17-75.)

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

### **331.40 SHORTCUTTING; AVOIDING TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.**

(a) No person shall operate a vehicle across public or private property marked with signs "No Through Traffic" or words of similar import for the purpose of passing from one roadway to another.

(b) No person shall operate a vehicle across public or private property for the purpose of avoiding compliance with a traffic control device.

(c) It shall be prima-facie evidence of a violation of this section for the operator of a vehicle to cross public or private property as provided herein without using the service of such property, stopping the engine or both.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

#### **331.41 WEARING EARPLUGS OR EARPHONES PROHIBITED.**

(a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle while wearing earphones over, or earplugs in, both ears. As used in this section, "earphones" means any headset, radio, tape player or other similar device that provides the listener with radio programs, music or other recorded information through a device attached to the head and that covers all or a portion of both ears. "Earphones" does not include speakers or other listening devices that are built into protective headgear.

(b) This section does not apply to:

- (1) Any person wearing a hearing aid;
- (2) Law enforcement personnel while on duty;
- (3) Fire personnel and emergency medical service personnel while on duty;
- (4) Any person engaged in the operation of equipment for use in the maintenance or repair of any street or highway; or
- (5) Any person engaged in the operation of refuse collection equipment.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.84)

#### **331.42 VEHICULAR OPERATION ON STREET CLOSED DUE TO RISE IN WATER LEVEL.**

(a) No person shall operate a vehicle on or onto a public street or highway that is temporarily covered by a rise in water level, including groundwater or an overflow of water, and that is clearly marked by a sign that specifies that the road is closed due to the rise in water level and that any person who uses the closed portion of the road may be fined up to two thousand dollars (\$2,000).

(b) A person who is issued a citation for a violation of subsection (a) hereof is not permitted to enter a written plea of guilty and waive the person's right to contest the citation in court, but instead must appear in person in the proper court to answer the charge.

- (c) (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
- (2) In addition to the financial sanctions authorized or required under Section 501.99 and to any costs otherwise authorized or required under any provision of law, the court imposing the sentence upon an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of subsection (a) hereof shall order the offender to reimburse one or more rescuers for the cost any such rescuer incurred in rescuing the person, excluding any cost of transporting the rescued person to a hospital or other facility for treatment of injuries, up to a cumulative maximum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000). If more than one rescuer was involved in the emergency response, the court shall allocate the reimbursement proportionately, according to the cost each rescuer incurred. A financial sanction imposed under this section is a judgment in favor of the rescuer and, subject to a determination of indigency under division (B) of Ohio R.C. 2929.28, a rescuer may collect the financial sanction in the same manner as provided in Ohio R.C. 2929.28.
- (d) As used in this section:
- (1) “Emergency medical service organization”, “firefighting agency” and “private fire company” have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 9.60.
- (2) “Rescuer” means a state agency, political subdivision, firefighting service, private fire company, or emergency medical service organization. (ORC 4511.714.)



**CHAPTER 333**  
**OVI; Willful Misconduct; Speed**

333.01	Driving or physical control while under the influence; evidence.	333.05	Speed limitations over bridges.
333.02	Operation in willful or wanton disregard of safety.	333.06	Speed exceptions for emergency or safety vehicles.
333.03	Maximum speed limits; assured clear distance ahead.	333.07	Street racing prohibited.
333.031	Approaching a stationary public safety, emergency, or road service vehicle.	333.08	Certain streets to be alleys.
333.04	Stopping vehicle; slow speed; posted minimum speeds.	333.09	Certain streets not to be through streets or highways.
		333.10	Operation in violation of immobilization order.
		333.11	Texting while driving prohibited.

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Drug of abuse defined - see Ohio R.C. 3719.011(A)  
 Alcohol defined - see Ohio R.C. 4301.01(B)(1)  
 Alteration of prima-facie speed limits - see Ohio R.C.  
 4511.21, 4511.22(B), 4511.23  
 Failure to control vehicle - see TRAF. 331.34  
 Walking on highway while under the influence - see TRAF.  
 371.09

**333.01 DRIVING OR PHYSICAL CONTROL WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE; EVIDENCE.**

- (a) (1) Operation Generally. No person shall operate any vehicle within this Municipality, if, at the time of the operation, any of the following apply:
- A. The person is under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them.
  - B. The person has a concentration of eight-hundredths of one per cent or more but less than seventeen-hundredths of one per cent by weight per unit volume of alcohol in the person's whole blood.
  - C. The person has a concentration of ninety-six-thousandths of one per cent or more but less than two hundred four-thousandths of one per cent by weight per unit volume of alcohol in the person's blood serum or plasma.

- D. The person has a concentration of eight-hundredths of one gram or more but less than seventeen-hundredths of one gram by weight of alcohol per two hundred ten liters of the person's breath.
- E. The person has a concentration of eleven-hundredths of one gram or more but less than two hundred thirty-eight-thousandths of one gram by weight of alcohol per one hundred milliliters of the person's urine.
- F. The person has a concentration of seventeen-hundredths of one per cent or more by weight per unit volume of alcohol in the person's whole blood.
- G. The person has a concentration of two hundred four-thousandths of one per cent or more by weight per unit volume of alcohol in the person's blood serum or plasma.
- H. The person has a concentration of seventeen-hundredths of one gram or more by weight of alcohol per two hundred ten liters of the person's breath.
- I. The person has a concentration of two hundred thirty-eight-thousandths of one gram or more by weight of alcohol per one hundred milliliters of the person's urine.
- J. Except as provided in subsection (m) of this section, the person has a concentration of any of the following controlled substances or metabolites of a controlled substance in the person's whole blood, blood serum or plasma, or urine that equals or exceeds any of the following:
  - 1. The person has a concentration of amphetamine in the person's urine of at least five hundred nanograms of amphetamine per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of amphetamine in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least one hundred nanograms of amphetamine per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.

2. The person has a concentration of cocaine in the person's urine of at least one hundred fifty nanograms of cocaine per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of cocaine in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least fifty nanograms of cocaine per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.
3. The person has a concentration of cocaine metabolite in the person's urine of at least one hundred fifty nanograms of cocaine metabolite per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of cocaine metabolite in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least fifty nanograms of cocaine metabolite per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.
4. The person has a concentration of heroin in the person's urine of at least two thousand nanograms of heroin per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of heroin in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least fifty nanograms of heroin per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.
5. The person has a concentration of heroin metabolite (6-monoacetyl morphine) in the person's urine of at least ten nanograms of heroin metabolite (6-monoacetyl morphine) per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of heroin metabolite (6-monoacetyl morphine) in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least ten nanograms of heroin metabolite (6-monoacetyl morphine) per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.
6. The person has a concentration of L.S.D. in the person's urine of at least twenty-five nanograms of L.S.D. per milliliter of the person's urine or a concentration of L.S.D. in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least ten nanograms of L.S.D. per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.

7. The person has a concentration of marihuana in the person's urine of at least ten nanograms of marihuana per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of marihuana in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least two nanograms of marihuana per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.
8. Either of the following applies:
  - a. The person is under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse or a combination of them, and the person has a concentration of marihuana metabolite in the person's urine of at least fifteen nanograms of marihuana metabolite per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of marihuana metabolite in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least five nanograms of marihuana metabolite per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.
  - b. The person has a concentration of marihuana metabolite in the person's urine of at least thirty-five nanograms of marihuana metabolite per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of marihuana metabolite in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least fifty nanograms of marihuana metabolite per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.
9. The person has a concentration of methamphetamine in the person's urine of at least five hundred nanograms of methamphetamine per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of methamphetamine in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least one hundred nanograms of methamphetamine per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.
10. The person has a concentration of phencyclidine in the person's urine of at least twenty-five nanograms of phencyclidine per milliliter of the person's urine or has a concentration of phencyclidine in the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma of at least ten nanograms of phencyclidine per milliliter of the person's whole blood or blood serum or plasma.

11. The State Board of Pharmacy has adopted a rule pursuant to Ohio R.C. 4729.041 that specifies the amount of salvia divinorum and the amount of salvinorin A that constitute concentrations of salvia divinorum and salvinorin A in a person's urine, in a person's whole blood, or in a person's blood serum or plasma at or above which the person is impaired for purposes of operating any vehicle within this Municipality, the rule is in effect, and the person has a concentration of salvia divinorum or salvinorin A of at least that amount so specified by rule in the person's urine, in the person's whole blood, or in the person's blood serum or plasma.
- (2) No person who, within twenty years of the conduct described in subsection (a)(2)A. of this section, previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.19(A) or (B), or any other equivalent offense shall do both of the following:
    - A. Operate any vehicle within this Municipality while under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse or a combination of them;
    - B. Subsequent to being arrested for operating the vehicle as described in subsection (a)(2)A. of this section, being asked by a law enforcement officer to submit to a chemical test or tests under Ohio R.C. 4511.191, and being advised by the officer in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4511.192 of the consequences of the person's refusal or submission to the test or tests, refuse to submit to the test or tests.
- (b) Operation After Under-Age Consumption. No person under twenty-one years of age shall operate any vehicle within this Municipality, if, at the time of the operation, any of the following apply:
- (1) The person has a concentration of at least two-hundredths of one per cent but less than eight-hundredths of one per cent by weight per unit volume of alcohol in the person's whole blood.
  - (2) The person has a concentration of at least three-hundredths of one per cent but less than ninety-six-thousandths of one per cent by weight per unit volume of alcohol in the person's blood serum or plasma.
  - (3) The person has a concentration of at least two-hundredths of one gram but less than eight-hundredths of one gram by weight of alcohol per two hundred ten liters of the person's breath.
  - (4) The person has a concentration of at least twenty-eight one-thousandths of one gram but less than eleven-hundredths of one gram by weight of alcohol per one hundred milliliters of the person's urine.

(c) One Conviction Limitation. In any proceeding arising out of one incident, a person may be charged with a violation of subsection (a)(1)A. or (a)(2) and a violation of subsection (b)(1), (2) or (3) of this section, but the person may not be convicted of more than one violation of these subsections. (ORC 4511.99)

(d) Physical Control.

- (1) As used in this subsection, “physical control” means being in the driver’s position of the front seat of a vehicle and having possession of the vehicle’s ignition key or other ignition device.
- (2) A. No person shall be in physical control of a vehicle if, at the time of the physical control, any of the following apply:
  1. The person is under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them.
  2. The person’s whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath, or urine contains at least the concentration of alcohol specified in subsection (a)(1)B., C., D. or E. hereof.
  3. Except as provided in subsection (d)(3) of this section, the person has a concentration of a listed controlled substance or a listed metabolite of a controlled substance in the person’s whole blood, blood serum or plasma, or urine that equals or exceeds the concentration specified in subsection (a)(1)J. hereof.
- B. No person under twenty-one years of age shall be in physical control of a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them or while the person’s whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath, or urine contains at least the concentration of alcohol specified in subsection (b)(1) to (4) hereof.
- (3) Subsection (d)(2)A.3. of this section does not apply to a person who is in physical control of a vehicle while the person has a concentration of a listed controlled substance or a listed metabolite of a controlled substance in the person’s whole blood, blood serum or plasma, or urine that equals or exceeds the amount specified in subsection (a)(1)J. hereof, if both of the following apply:
  - A. The person obtained the controlled substance pursuant to a prescription issued by a licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs.
  - B. The person injected, ingested, or inhaled the controlled substance in accordance with the health professional’s directions.

(e) Evidence; Tests.

- (1) A. In any criminal prosecution or juvenile court proceeding for a violation of (a)(1)A. of this section or for any equivalent offense, that is vehicle-related the result of any test of any blood or urine withdrawn and analyzed at any health care provider, as defined in Ohio R.C. 2317.02, may be admitted with expert testimony to be considered with any other relevant and competent evidence in determining the guilt or innocence of the defendant.
- B. In any criminal prosecution or juvenile court proceeding for a violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section or for an equivalent offense that is vehicle related, the court may admit evidence on the concentration of alcohol, drugs of abuse, controlled substances, metabolites of a controlled substance, or a combination of them in the defendant's whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath, urine or other bodily substance at the time of the alleged violation as shown by chemical analysis of the substance withdrawn within three hours of the time of the alleged violation. The three-hour time limit specified in this subsection regarding the admission of evidence does not extend or affect the two-hour time limit specified in Ohio R.C. 4511.192(A) as the maximum period of time during which a person may consent to a chemical test or tests as described in that section.

The court may admit evidence on the concentration of alcohol, drugs of abuse, or a combination of them as described in this section when a person submits to a blood, breath, urine or other bodily substance test at the request of a law enforcement officer under Ohio R.C. 4511.191, or a blood or urine sample is obtained pursuant to a search warrant. Only a physician, a registered nurse, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, an emergency medical technician-paramedic or a qualified technician, chemist, or phlebotomist shall withdraw a blood sample for the purpose of determining the alcohol, drug, controlled substance, metabolite of a controlled substance, or combination content of the whole blood, blood serum, or blood plasma. This limitation does not apply to the taking of breath or urine specimens. A person authorized to withdraw blood under this subsection may refuse to withdraw blood under this subsection, if in that person's opinion, the physical welfare of the person would be endangered by the withdrawing of blood.

The bodily substance withdrawn under subsection (e)(1)B. hereof shall be analyzed in accordance with methods approved by the Director of Health by an individual possessing a valid permit issued by the Director pursuant to Ohio R.C. 3701.143.

- C. As used in subsection (e)(1)B. of this section, "emergency medical technician-intermediate" and "emergency medical technician-paramedic" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 4765.01.
- (2) In a criminal prosecution or juvenile court proceeding for violation of subsection (a) of this section or for an equivalent offense that is vehicle related, if there was at the time the bodily substance was withdrawn a concentration of less than the applicable concentration of alcohol specified in subsections (a)(1)B., C., D. and E. of this section, or less than the applicable concentration of a listed controlled substance or a listed metabolite of a controlled substance specified for a violation of subsection (a)(1)J. of this section, that fact may be considered with other competent

evidence in determining the guilt or innocence of the defendant. This subsection does not limit or affect a criminal prosecution or juvenile court proceeding for a violation of subsection (b) of this section or for an equivalent offense that is substantially equivalent to that subsection.

- (3) Upon the request of the person who was tested, the results of the chemical test shall be made available to the person or the person's attorney, immediately upon the completion of the chemical test analysis. If the chemical test was obtained pursuant to subsection (e)(1)B. hereof, the person tested may have a physician, a registered nurse, or a qualified technician, chemist or phlebotomist of the person's own choosing administer a chemical test or tests, at the person's expense, in addition to any administered at the request of a law enforcement officer. If the person was under arrest as described in division (A)(5) of Ohio R.C. 4511.191, the arresting officer shall advise the person at the time of the arrest that the person may have an independent chemical test taken at the person's own expense. If the person was under arrest other than described in division (A)(5) of Ohio R.C. 4511.191, the form to be read to the person to be tested, as required under Ohio R.C. 4511.192, shall state that the person may have an independent test performed at the person's expense. The failure or inability to obtain an additional chemical test by a person shall not preclude the admission of evidence relating to the chemical test or tests taken at the request of a law enforcement officer.
- (4) A. As used in subsections (e)(4)B. and C. of this section, "national highway traffic safety administration" means the National Traffic Highway Safety Administration established as an administration of the United States Department of Transportation under 96 Stat. 2415 (1983), 49 U.S.C.A. 105.
- B. In any criminal prosecution or juvenile court proceeding for a violation of subsection (a), (b) or (d) of this section, of a municipal ordinance relating to operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or alcohol and a drug of abuse, or of a municipal ordinance relating to operating a vehicle with a prohibited concentration of alcohol, a controlled substance, or a metabolite of a controlled substance in the whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath or urine, if a law enforcement officer has administered a field sobriety test to the operator or person in physical control of the vehicle involved in the violation and if it is shown by clear and convincing evidence that the officer administered the test in substantial compliance with the testing standards for any reliable, credible, and generally accepted field sobriety tests that were in effect at the time the tests were administered, including, but not limited to, any testing standards then in effect that were set by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, all of the following apply:
1. The officer may testify concerning the results of the field sobriety test so administered.
  2. The prosecution may introduce the results of the field sobriety test so administered as evidence in any proceedings in the criminal prosecution or juvenile court proceeding.
  3. If testimony is presented or evidence is introduced under subsection (e)(4)B.1. or 2. of this section and if the testimony or evidence is admissible under the Rules of Evidence, the court shall admit the testimony or evidence and the trier of fact shall give it whatever weight the trier of fact considers to be appropriate.



- C. Subsection (e)(4)B. of this section does not limit or preclude a court, in its determination of whether the arrest of a person was supported by probable cause or its determination of any other matter in a criminal prosecution or juvenile court proceeding of a type described in that subsection, from considering evidence or testimony that is not otherwise disallowed by subsection (e)(4)B. of this section. (ORC 4511.19; 4511.194)
- (f) Forensic Laboratory Reports.
- (1) Subject to subsection (f)(3) of this section, in any criminal prosecution or juvenile court proceeding for a violation of subsection (a)(1)B., C., D., E., F., G., H., I., or J. or (b)(1), (2), (3) or (4) of this section or for an equivalent offense that is substantially equivalent to any of those subsections, a laboratory report from any laboratory personnel issued a permit by the Department of Health authorizing an analysis as described in this subsection that contains an analysis of the whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath, urine, or other bodily substance tested and that contains all of the information specified in this subsection shall be admitted as prima-facie evidence of the information and statements that the report contains. The laboratory report shall contain all of the following:
- A. The signature, under oath, of any person who performed the analysis;
  - B. Any findings as to the identity and quantity of alcohol, a drug of abuse, a controlled substance, a metabolite of a controlled substance, or a combination of them that was found;
  - C. A copy of a notarized statement by the laboratory director or a designee of the director that contains the name of each certified analyst or test performer involved with the report, the analyst's or test performer's employment relationship with the laboratory that issued the report, and a notation that performing an analysis of the type involved is part of the analyst's or test performer's regular duties;
  - D. An outline of the analyst's or test performer's education, training, and experience in performing the type of analysis involved and a certification that the laboratory satisfies appropriate quality control standards in general and, in this particular analysis, under rules of the Department of Health.
- (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding the admission of evidence, a report of the type described in subsection (f)(1) of this section is not admissible against the defendant to whom it pertains in any proceeding, other than a preliminary hearing or a grand jury proceeding, unless the prosecutor has served a copy of the report on the defendant's attorney or, if the defendant has no attorney, on the defendant.
- (3) A report of the type described in subsection (f)(1) of this section shall not be prima-facie evidence of the contents, identity, or amount of any substance if, within seven days after the defendant to whom the report pertains or the defendant's attorney receives a copy of the report, the defendant or the defendant's attorney demands the testimony of the person who signed the report. The judge in the case may extend the seven-day time limit in the interest of justice.

(g) Immunity From Liability For Withdrawing Blood. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, any physician, registered nurse, emergency medical technician-intermediate, emergency medical technician-paramedic, or qualified technician, chemist, or phlebotomist who withdraws blood from a person pursuant to this section or Ohio R.C. 4511.191 or 4511.192, and any hospital, first-aid station, or clinic at which blood is withdrawn from a person pursuant to this section or Ohio R.C. 4511.191 or 4511.192, is immune from criminal liability and civil liability based upon a claim of assault and battery or any other claim that is not a claim of malpractice, for any act performed in withdrawing blood from the person. The immunity provided in this subsection also extends to an emergency medical service organization that employs an emergency medical technician-intermediate or emergency medical technician-paramedic who withdraws blood under this section. The immunity provided in this subsection is not available to a person who withdraws blood if the person engaged in willful or wanton misconduct.

As used in this subsection, “emergency medical technician-intermediate” and “emergency medical technician-paramedic” have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 4765.01.

(h) General OVI Penalty.

(1) Whoever violates any provision of subsections (a)(1)A. to I. or (a)(2) of this section is guilty of operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them. Whoever violates subsection (a)(1)J. of this section is guilty of operating a vehicle while under the influence of a listed controlled substance or a listed metabolite of a controlled substance. The court shall sentence the offender for either offense under Ohio R.C. Chapter 2929, and this Traffic Code, except as otherwise authorized or required by subsections (h)(1)A. to E. of this section:

A. Except as otherwise provided in subsections (h)(1)B., C., D. or E. of this section, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, and the court shall sentence the offender to all of the following:

1. If the sentence is being imposed for a violation of subsections (a)(1)A., B., C., D., E., or J. of this section, a mandatory jail term of three consecutive days. As used in this subsection, three consecutive days means seventy-two consecutive hours. The court may sentence an offender to both an intervention program and a jail term. The court may impose a jail term in addition to the three-day mandatory jail term or intervention program. However, in no case shall the cumulative jail term imposed for the offense exceed six months.

The court may suspend the execution of the three-day jail term under this subsection if the court, in lieu of that suspended term, places the offender under a community control sanction pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.25 and requires the offender to attend, for three consecutive days, a drivers’ intervention program certified under Ohio R.C. 5119.38.

The court also may suspend the execution of any part of the three-day jail term under this subsection if it places the offender under a community control sanction pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.25 for part of the three days, requires the offender to attend for the suspended part of the term a drivers’ intervention program so certified, and sentences the offender to a jail term equal to the remainder of the three consecutive days that the offender does not spend attending the program. The court may require the offender, as a

condition of community control and in addition to the required attendance at a drivers' intervention program, to attend and satisfactorily complete any treatment or education programs that comply with the minimum standards adopted pursuant to Ohio R.C. Chapter 5119 by the Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services that the operators of the drivers' intervention program determine that the offender should attend and to report periodically to the court on the offender's progress in the programs. The court also may impose on the offender any other conditions of community control that it considers necessary.

If the court grants unlimited driving privileges to a first-time offender under Ohio R.C. 4510.022, all penalties imposed upon the offender by the court under subsection (h)(1)A.1. of this section for the offense apply, except that the court shall suspend any mandatory or additional jail term imposed by the court under subsection (h)(1)A.1. of this section upon granting unlimited driving privileges in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4510.022.

2. If the sentence is being imposed for a violation of subsection (a)(1)F., G., H. or I. or (a)(2) of this section, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a mandatory jail term of at least three consecutive days and a requirement that the offender attend, for three consecutive days, a drivers' intervention program that is certified pursuant to Ohio R.C. 5119.38. As used in this subsection, three consecutive days means seventy-two consecutive hours. If the court determines that the offender is not conducive to treatment in a drivers' intervention program, if the offender refuses to attend a drivers' intervention program, or if the jail at which the offender is to serve the jail term imposed can provide a drivers' intervention program, the court shall sentence the offender to a mandatory jail term of at least six consecutive days.

If the court grants unlimited driving privileges to a first-time offender under Ohio R.C. 4510.022, all penalties imposed upon the offender by the court under subsection (h)(1)A.2. of this section for the offense apply, except that the court shall suspend any mandatory or additional jail term imposed by the court under subsection (h)(1)A.2. of this section upon granting unlimited driving privileges in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4510.022.

The court may require the offender, under a community control sanction imposed under Ohio R.C. 2929.25, to attend and satisfactorily complete any treatment or education programs that comply with the minimum standards adopted pursuant to Ohio R.C. Chapter 5119 by the Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in addition to the required attendance at drivers' intervention program, that the operators of the drivers' intervention program determine that the offender should attend and to report periodically to the court on the offender's progress in the programs. The court also may impose any other conditions of community control on the offender that it considers necessary.

3. In all cases, a fine of not less than three hundred seventy-five dollars (\$375.00) and not more than one thousand seventy-five dollars (\$1,075).
  4. In all cases, a suspension of the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privilege for a definite period of one to three years. The court may grant limited driving privileges relative to the suspension under Ohio R.C. 4510.021 and 4510.13. The court may grant unlimited driving privileges with an ignition interlock device relative to the suspension and may reduce the period of suspension as authorized under Ohio R.C. 4510.022.
- B. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (h)(1)E. of this section, an offender who, within ten years of the offense, previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section or one other equivalent offense is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. The court shall sentence the offender to all of the following:
1. If the sentence is being imposed for a violation of subsection (a)(1)A., B., C., D., E., or J. of this section, a mandatory jail term of ten consecutive days. The court shall impose the ten-day mandatory jail term under this subsection unless, subject to subsection (h)(3) of this section, it instead imposes a sentence under that subsection consisting of both a jail term and a term of house arrest with electronic monitoring, with continuous alcohol monitoring, or with both electronic monitoring and continuous alcohol monitoring. The court may impose a jail term in addition to the ten-day mandatory jail term. The cumulative jail term imposed for the offense shall not exceed six months.  
In addition to the jail term or the term of house arrest with electronic monitoring or continuous alcohol monitoring or both types of monitoring and jail term, the court shall require the offender to be assessed by a community addiction services provider that is authorized by Ohio R.C. 5119.21, subject to subsection (k) of this section, and shall order the offender to follow the treatment recommendations of the services provider. The purpose of the assessment is to determine the degree of the offender's alcohol usage and to determine whether or not treatment is warranted. Upon the request of the court, the services provider shall submit the results of the assessment to the court, including all treatment recommendations and clinical diagnoses related to alcohol use.
  2. If the sentence is being imposed for a violation of subsection (a)(1)F., G., H. or I. or (a)(2) of this section, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a mandatory jail term of twenty consecutive days. The court shall impose the twenty-day mandatory jail term under this subsection unless, subject to subsection (h)(3) of this section, it instead imposes a sentence under that subsection consisting of both a jail term and a term of house arrest with electronic monitoring, with continuous alcohol monitoring, or with both electronic monitoring and continuous alcohol monitoring. The court

may impose a jail term in addition to the twenty-day mandatory jail term. The cumulative jail term imposed for the offense shall not exceed six months.

In addition to the jail term or the term of house arrest with electronic monitoring or continuous alcohol monitoring or both types of monitoring and jail term, the court shall require the offender to be assessed by a community addiction services provider that is authorized by Ohio R.C. 5119.21, subject to subsection (k) of this section, and shall order the offender to follow the treatment recommendations of the services provider. The purpose of the assessment is to determine the degree of the offender's alcohol usage and to determine whether or not treatment is warranted. Upon the request of the court, the services provider shall submit the results of the assessment to the court, including all treatment recommendations and clinical diagnoses related to alcohol use.

3. In all cases, notwithstanding the fines set forth in Section 303.99, a fine of not less than five hundred twenty-five dollars (\$525.00) and not more than one thousand six hundred twenty-five dollars (\$1,625).
  4. In all cases, a suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege for a definite period of one to seven years. The court may grant limited driving privileges relative to the suspension under Ohio R.C. 4510.021 and 4510.13. (ORC 4511.19)
  5. In all cases, if the vehicle is registered in the offender's name, immobilization of the vehicle involved in the offense for ninety days in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4503.233 and impoundment of the license plates of that vehicle for ninety days. (ORC 4511.193)
- C. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (h)(1)E. of this section, an offender who, within ten years of the offense, previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two violations of subsection (a) or (b) of this section or other equivalent offenses is guilty of a misdemeanor. The court shall sentence the offender to all of the following:
1. If the sentence is being imposed for a violation of subsection (a)(1)A., B., C., D., E., or J. of this section, a mandatory jail term of thirty consecutive days. The court shall impose the thirty-day mandatory jail term under this subsection unless, subject to subsection (h)(3) of this section, it instead imposes a sentence under that subsection consisting of both a jail term and a term of house arrest with electronic monitoring, with continuous alcohol monitoring, or with both electronic monitoring and continuous alcohol monitoring. The court may impose a jail term in addition to the thirty-day mandatory jail term. Notwithstanding the jail terms set forth in Section 303.99, the additional jail term shall not exceed one year, and the cumulative jail term imposed for the offense shall not exceed one year.

2. If the sentence is being imposed for a violation of subsection (a)(1)F., G., H. or I. or (a)(2) of this section, a mandatory jail term of sixty consecutive days. The court shall impose the sixty-day mandatory jail term under this subsection unless, subject to subsection (h)(3) of this section, it instead imposes a sentence under that subsection consisting of both a jail term and a term of electronically monitored house arrest with continuous alcohol monitoring, or with both electronic monitoring and continuous alcohol monitoring. The court may impose a jail term in addition to the sixty-day mandatory jail term. Notwithstanding the terms of imprisonment set forth in Section 303.99, the additional jail term shall not exceed one year, and the cumulative jail term imposed for the offense shall not exceed one year.
  3. In all cases, notwithstanding the fines set forth in Section 303.99, a fine of not less than eight hundred fifty dollars (\$850.00) and not more than two thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$2,750).
  4. In all cases, a suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege for a definite period of two to twelve years. The court may grant limited driving privileges relative to the suspension under Ohio R.C. 4510.021 and 4510.13. (ORC 4511.19)
  5. In all cases, if the vehicle is registered in the offender's name, criminal forfeiture of the vehicle involved in the offense in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4503.234. Subsection (h)(5) of this section applies regarding any vehicle that is subject to an order of criminal forfeiture under this subsection. (ORC 4511.193)
  6. In all cases, the court shall order the offender to participate with a community addiction services provider authorized by Ohio R.C. 5119.21, subject to subsection (k) of this section, and shall order the offender to follow the treatment recommendations of the services provider. The operator of the services provider shall determine and assess the degree of the offender's alcohol dependency and shall make recommendations for treatment. Upon the request of the court, the services provider shall submit the results of the assessment to the court, including all treatment recommendations and clinical diagnoses related to alcohol use.
- D. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (h)(1)E. of this section, an offender who, within ten years of the offense, previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to three or four violations of subsection (a) or (b) of this section or other equivalent offenses or an offender who, within twenty years of the offense, previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to five or more violations of that nature is guilty of a felony of the fourth degree and shall be prosecuted under appropriate state law.

- E. An offender who previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.19(A) that was a felony, regardless of when the violation and the conviction or guilty plea occurred, is guilty of a felony of the third degree and shall be prosecuted under appropriate state law.
- (2) An offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of subsection (a) of this section and who subsequently seeks reinstatement of the driver's or occupational driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privilege suspended under this section as a result of the conviction or guilty plea shall pay a reinstatement fee as provided in division (F)(2) of Ohio R.C. 4511.191.
- (3) If an offender is sentenced to a jail term under subsection (h)(1)B.1. or 2. or (h)(1)C.1. or 2. of this section and if, within sixty days of sentencing of the offender, the court issues a written finding on the record that, due to the unavailability of space at the jail where the offender is required to serve the term, the offender will not be able to begin serving that term within the sixty-day period following the date of sentencing, the court may impose an alternative sentence under this subsection that includes a term of house arrest with electronic monitoring, with continuous alcohol monitoring, or with both electronic monitoring and continuous alcohol monitoring.
- As an alternative to a mandatory jail term of ten consecutive days required by subsection (h)(1)B.1. of this section, the court, under this subsection, may sentence the offender to five consecutive days in jail and not less than eighteen consecutive days of house arrest with electronic monitoring, with continuous alcohol monitoring, or with both electronic monitoring and continuous alcohol monitoring. The cumulative total of the five consecutive days in jail and the period of house arrest with electronic monitoring, continuous alcohol monitoring, or both types of monitoring shall not exceed six months. The five consecutive days in jail do not have to be served prior to or consecutively to the period of house arrest.
- As an alternative to the mandatory jail term of twenty consecutive days required by subsection (h)(1)B.2. of this section, the court, under this subsection, may sentence the offender to ten consecutive days in jail and not less than thirty-six consecutive days of house arrest with electronic monitoring, with continuous alcohol monitoring, or with both electronic monitoring and continuous alcohol monitoring. The cumulative total of the ten consecutive days in jail and the period of house arrest with electronic monitoring, continuous alcohol monitoring or both types of monitoring shall not exceed six months. The ten consecutive days in jail do not have to be served prior to or consecutively to the period of house arrest.
- As an alternative to a mandatory jail term of thirty consecutive days required by subsection (h)(1)C.1. of this section, the court, under this subsection, may sentence the offender to fifteen consecutive days in jail and not less than fifty-five consecutive days of house arrest with electronic monitoring, with continuous alcohol monitoring, or with both electronic monitoring and continuous alcohol monitoring. The cumulative total of the fifteen consecutive days in jail and the period of house arrest with electronic monitoring, continuous alcohol monitoring or both types of monitoring shall not exceed one year. The fifteen consecutive days in jail do not have to be served prior to or consecutively to the period of house arrest.

As an alternative to the mandatory jail term of sixty consecutive days required by subsection (h)(1)C.2. of this section, the court, under this subsection, may sentence the offender to thirty consecutive days in jail and not less than one hundred ten consecutive days of house arrest with electronic monitoring, with continuous alcohol monitoring, or with both electronic monitoring and continuous alcohol monitoring. The cumulative total of the thirty consecutive days in jail and the period of house arrest with electronic monitoring, continuous alcohol monitoring, or both types of monitoring shall not exceed one year. The thirty consecutive days in jail do not have to be served prior to or consecutively to the period of house arrest.

- (4) If an offender's driver's or occupational driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privilege is suspended under subsection (h) of this section and if Ohio R.C. 4510.13 permits the court to grant limited driving privileges, the court may grant the limited driving privileges in accordance with that section. If division (A)(7) of that section requires that the court impose as a condition of the privileges that the offender must display on the vehicle that is driven subject to the privileges restricted license plates that are issued under Ohio R.C. 4503.231, except as provided in division (B) of that section, the court shall impose that condition as one of the conditions of the limited driving privileges granted to the offender, except as provided in division (B) of Ohio R.C. 4503.231.
- (5) If title to a motor vehicle that is subject to an order of criminal forfeiture under this section is assigned or transferred and division (B)(2) or (3) of Ohio R.C. 4503.234 applies, in addition to or independent of any other penalty established by law, the court may fine the offender the value of the vehicle as determined by publications of the national auto dealers association. The proceeds of any fine so imposed shall be distributed in accordance with division (C)(2) of that section.
- (6) In all cases in which an offender is sentenced under subsection (h) of this section, the offender shall provide the court with proof of financial responsibility as defined in Ohio R.C. 4509.01. If the offender fails to provide that proof of financial responsibility, the court, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, may order restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.18 or 2929.28 in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender's operation of the vehicle before, during or after committing the offense for which the offender is sentenced under subsection (h) of this section.
- (7) A court may order an offender to reimburse a law enforcement agency for any costs incurred by the agency with respect to a chemical test or tests administered to the offender if all of the following apply:
  - A. The offender is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of subsection (a) of this section.
  - B. The test or tests were of the offender's whole blood, blood serum or plasma, or urine.
  - C. The test or tests indicated that the offender had a prohibited concentration of a controlled substance or a metabolite of a controlled substance in the offender's whole blood, blood serum or plasma, or urine at the time of the offense.
- (8) As used in subsection (h) of this section, "electronic monitoring", "mandatory prison term" and "mandatory term of local incarceration" have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2929.01.



(i) Vehicle Operation After Underage Alcohol Consumption Penalty. Whoever violates subsection (b) of this section is guilty of operating a vehicle after underage alcohol consumption and shall be punished as follows:

(1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (i)(2) of this section, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. In addition to any other sanction imposed for the offense, the court shall impose a class six suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(6) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02.

The court may grant limited driving privileges relative to the suspension under Ohio R.C. 4510.021 and 4510.13. The court may grant unlimited driving privileges with an ignition interlock device relative to the suspension and may reduce the period of suspension as authorized under Ohio R.C. 4510.022. If the court grants unlimited driving privileges under Ohio R.C. 4510.022, the court shall suspend any jail term imposed under subsection (i)(1) of this section as required under that section.

(2) If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one or more violations of subsection (a) or (b) of this section or other equivalent offenses, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. In addition to any other sanction imposed for the offense, the court shall impose a class four suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(4) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02. The court may grant limited driving privileges relative to the suspension under Ohio R.C. 4510.021 and 4510.13.

(3) If the offender also is convicted of or also pleads guilty to a specification of the type described in Ohio R.C. 2941.1416 and if the court imposes a jail term for the violation of subsection (b) of this section, the court shall impose upon the offender an additional definite jail term pursuant to division (E) of Ohio R.C. 2929.24.

(4) The offender shall provide the court with proof of financial responsibility as defined in Ohio R.C. 4509.01. If the offender fails to provide that proof of financial responsibility, then, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, the court may order restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.28, in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender's operation of the vehicle before, during or after committing the violation of subsection (b) of this section.  
(ORC 4511.19)

(j) Physical Control Penalty. Whoever violates subsection (d) hereof is guilty of having physical control of a vehicle while under the influence, a misdemeanor of the first degree. In addition to other sanctions imposed, the court may impose on the offender a class seven suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(7) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02. (ORC 4511.194)

(k) Compliance With Ohio R.C. Chapter 5119 Standards.

(1) No court shall sentence an offender to an alcohol treatment program under this section unless the treatment program complies with the minimum standards for alcohol treatment programs adopted under Ohio R.C. Chapter 5119 by the Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

- (2) An offender who stays in a driver's intervention program or in an alcohol treatment program under an order issued under this section shall pay the cost of the stay in the program. However, if the court determines that an offender who stays in an alcohol treatment program under an order issued under this section is unable to pay the cost of the stay in the program, the court may order that the cost be paid from the court's indigent drivers' alcohol treatment fund.

(l) Appeal Does Not Stay Operation of License Suspension. If a person whose driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privilege is suspended under this section files an appeal regarding any aspect of the person's trial or sentence, the appeal itself does not stay the operation of the suspension.

(m) Subsection (a)(1)J. of this section does not apply to a person who operates a vehicle while the person has a concentration of a listed controlled substance or a listed metabolite of a controlled substance in the person's whole blood, blood serum or plasma, or urine that equals or exceeds the amount specified in that subsection, if both of the following apply:

- (1) The person obtained the controlled substance pursuant to a prescription issued by a licensed health professional authorized to prescribe drugs.
- (2) The person injected, ingested, or inhaled the controlled substance in accordance with the health professional's directions.

(n) The prohibited concentrations of a controlled substance or a metabolite of a controlled substance listed in subsection (a)(1)J. of this section also apply in a prosecution of a violation of Ohio R.C. 2923.16(D) in the same manner as if the offender is being prosecuted for a prohibited concentration of alcohol.

(o) Conflict of Terms. All terms defined in Ohio R.C. 4510.01 apply to this section. If the meaning of a term defined in Ohio R.C. 4510.01 conflicts with the meaning of the same term as defined in Ohio R.C. 4501.01 or this Traffic Code, the term as defined in Ohio R.C. 4510.01 applies to this section. (ORC 4511.19)

(p) Indigent Drivers Alcohol Treatment Fund. Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) of any fine imposed for a violation of subsection (a) hereof shall be deposited into the municipal or county indigent drivers alcohol treatment fund pursuant to Ohio R.C. 4511.193. (ORC 4511.193)

(q) Definitions. As used in this section:

- (1) "Equivalent offense" means any of the following:
  - A. A violation of division (A) or (B) of Ohio R.C. 4511.19;
  - B. A violation of a municipal OVI ordinance;
  - C. A violation of Ohio R.C. 2903.04 in a case in which the offender was subject to the sanctions described in division (D) of that section;
  - D. A violation of division (A)(1) of Ohio R.C. 2903.06 or 2903.08 or a municipal ordinance that is substantially equivalent to either of those divisions;
  - E. A violation of division (A)(2), (3) or (4) of Ohio R.C. 2903.06, division (A)(2) of Ohio R.C. 2903.08, or former Ohio R.C. 2903.07, or a municipal ordinance that is substantially equivalent to any of those divisions or that former section, in a case in which a judge or jury as the trier of fact found that the offender was under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them;
  - F. A violation of division (A) or (B) of Ohio R.C. 1547.11;

- G. A violation of a municipal ordinance prohibiting a person from operating or being in physical control of any vessel underway or from manipulating any water skis, aquaplane or similar device on the waters of this State while under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them or prohibiting a person from operating or being in physical control of any vessel underway or from manipulating any water skis, aquaplane or similar device on the waters of this State with a prohibited concentration of alcohol, a controlled substance, or a metabolite of a controlled substance in the whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath or urine;
  - H. A violation of an existing or former municipal ordinance, law of another state, or law of the United States that is substantially equivalent to division (A) or (B) of Ohio R.C. 4511.19 or division (A) or (B) or Ohio R.C. 1547.11;
  - I. A violation of a former law of this State that was substantially equivalent to division (A) or (B) of Ohio R.C. 4511.19 or division (A) or (B) of Ohio R.C. 1547.11;
- (2) “Mandatory jail term” means the mandatory term in jail of three, six, ten, twenty, thirty, or sixty days that must be imposed under subsection (h)(1)A., B. or C. upon an offender convicted of a violation of subsection (a) hereof and in relation to which all of the following apply:
- A. Except as specifically authorized under this section, the term must be served in a jail.
  - B. Except as specifically authorized under this section, the term cannot be suspended, reduced or otherwise modified pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.21 to 2929.28, or any other provision of the Ohio Revised Code.
- (3) “Municipal OVI ordinance” and “municipal OVI offense” mean any municipal ordinance prohibiting a person from operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them or prohibiting a person from operating a vehicle with a prohibited concentration of alcohol, a controlled substance, or a metabolite of a controlled substance in the whole blood, blood serum, or plasma, breath or urine.
- (4) “Community residential sanction”, “continuous alcohol monitoring”, “jail”, “mandatory prison term”, “mandatory term of local incarceration”, “sanction” and “prison term” have the same meanings as in Ohio R.C. 2929.01.
- (5) “Drug of abuse” has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4506.01.
- (6) “Equivalent offense that is vehicle-related” means an equivalent offense that is any of the following:
- A. A violation described in subsection (q)(1), (2), (3), (4) or (5) hereof;
  - B. A violation of an existing or former municipal ordinance, law of another state, or law of the United States that is substantially equivalent to division (A) or (B) of Ohio R.C. 4511.19;
  - C. A violation of a former law of this state that was substantially equivalent to division (A) or (B) of Ohio R.C. 4511.19. (ORC 4511.181)

### **333.02 OPERATION IN WILLFUL OR WANTON DISREGARD OF SAFETY.**

- (a) No person shall operate a vehicle on any street or highway in willful or wanton disregard of the safety of persons or property. (ORC 4511.20)

(b) No person shall operate a vehicle on any public or private property other than streets or highways, in willful or wanton disregard of the safety of persons or property.

This subsection does not apply to the competitive operation of vehicles on public or private property when the owner of such property knowingly permits such operation thereon.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree. (ORC 4511.201)

(d) Whenever a person is found guilty under this section of operating a motor vehicle in violation of this section relating to reckless operation, the trial court of any court of record, in addition to or independent of all other penalties provided by law, may impose a class five suspension of the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(5) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02. (ORC 4510.15)

### **333.03 MAXIMUM SPEED LIMITS; ASSURED CLEAR DISTANCE AHEAD.**

(a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle at a speed greater or less than is reasonable or proper, having due regard to the traffic, surface and width of the street or highway and any other conditions, and no person shall drive any motor vehicle in and upon any street or highway at a greater speed than will permit the person to bring it to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead.

(b) It is prima-facie lawful, in the absence of a lower limit declared pursuant to Ohio R.C. 4511.21 by the Ohio Director of Transportation or Council, for the operator of a motor vehicle to operate the same at a speed not exceeding the following:

- (1) A. Twenty miles per hour in school zones during school recess and while children are going to or leaving school during the opening or closing hours, and when twenty miles per hour school speed limit signs are erected. The end of every school zone may be marked by a sign indicating the end of the zone. Nothing in this section or in the manual and specifications for a uniform system of traffic control devices shall be construed to require school zones to be indicated by signs equipped with flashing or other lights, or giving other special notice of the hours in which the school zone speed limit is in effect.
- B. As used in this section, "school" means any school chartered under Ohio R.C. 3301.16 and any nonchartered school that during the preceding year filed with the Department of Education in compliance with rule 3301-35-08 of the Ohio Administrative Code, a copy of the school's report for the parents of the school's pupils certifying that the school meets Ohio minimum standards for nonchartered, nontax-supported schools and presents evidence of this filing to the jurisdiction from which it is requesting the establishment of a school zone.
- C. As used in this section, "school zone" means that portion of a street or highway passing a school fronting upon the street or highway that is encompassed by projecting the school property lines to the fronting street or highway. Upon request from the Municipality for streets and highways under its jurisdiction, the Ohio Director of

Transportation may extend the traditional school zone boundaries. The distances in subsections (b)(1)C.1. to 3. hereof shall not exceed 300 feet per approach per direction and are bounded by whichever of the following distances or combinations thereof the Director approves as most appropriate:

1. The distance encompassed by projecting the school building lines normal to the fronting highway and extending a distance of 300 feet on each approach direction;
2. The distance encompassed by projecting the school property lines intersecting the fronting highway and extending a distance of 300 feet on each approach direction;
3. The distance encompassed by the special marking of the pavement for a principal school pupil crosswalk plus a distance of 300 feet on each approach direction of highway;

Nothing in this section shall be construed to invalidate the Director's initial action on August 9, 1976, establishing all school zones at the traditional school zone boundaries defined by projecting school property lines, except when those boundaries are extended as provided in subsections (b)(1)A. and C. hereof.

D. As used in this subsection, "crosswalk" has the meaning given that term in Section 301.09. The Director may, upon request by resolution of Council, and upon submission by the Municipality of such engineering, traffic and other information as the Director considers necessary, designate a school zone on any portion of a State route lying within the Municipality that includes a crosswalk customarily used by children going to or leaving a school during recess and opening and closing hours, whenever the distance, as measured in a straight line, from the school property line nearest the crosswalk to the nearest point of the crosswalk is no more than 1,320 feet. Such a school zone shall include the distance encompassed by the crosswalk and extending 300 feet on each approach direction of the State route;

- (2) Twenty-five miles per hour in all other portions of the Municipality, except on State routes outside business districts, through highways outside business districts and alleys;
- (3) Thirty-five miles per hour on all State routes or through highways within the Municipality outside business districts, except as provided in subsections (b)(4) and (5) hereof;
- (4) Fifty miles per hour on controlled-access highways and expressways within the Municipality, except as provided in subsections (b)(8) to (b)(12) of this section;
- (5) Fifty miles per hour on State routes within the Municipality outside urban districts unless a lower prima-facie speed is established as further provided in this section;
- (6) Fifteen miles per hour on all alleys within the Municipality;
- (7) Fifty-five miles per hour on freeways with paved shoulders inside the Municipality other than freeways as provided in subsection (b)(10) and (12);
- (8) Sixty miles per hour on rural expressways with traffic control signals and on all portions of rural divided highways, except as provided in subsections (b)(9) and (10) of this section;
- (9) Sixty-five miles per hour on all rural expressways without traffic control signals;
- (10) Seventy miles per hour on all rural freeways;

- (11) Fifty-five miles per hour on all portions of freeways or expressways in congested areas as determined by the Director and that are located within a municipal corporation or within an interstate freeway outerbelt, except as provided in subsection (b)(12) of this section;
- (12) Sixty-five miles per hour on all portions of freeways or expressways without traffic control signals in urbanized areas.

(c) It is prima-facie unlawful for any person to exceed any of the speed limitations in subsection (b)(1)A. to (b)(6) hereof, or any declared or established pursuant to this section by the Director or local authorities and it is unlawful for any person to exceed any of the speed limitations in subsection (d) hereof. No person shall be convicted of more than one violation of this section for the same conduct, although violations of more than one provision of this section may be charged in the alternative in a single affidavit.

- (d) No person shall operate a motor vehicle upon a street or highway as follows:
- (1) At a speed exceeding fifty-five miles per hour, except upon a highway, expressway or freeway as provided in subsection (b)(8), (9), (10) and (12) hereof;
  - (2) At a speed exceeding sixty miles per hour upon a highway as provided in subsection (b)(8) hereof;
  - (3) At a speed exceeding sixty-five miles per hour upon an expressway as provided in subsection (b)(9) hereof, or upon a freeway as provided in subsection (b)(12) of this section, except upon a freeway as provided in subsection (b)(10) hereof;
  - (4) At a speed exceeding seventy miles per hour upon a freeway as provided in subsection (b)(10) hereof;
  - (5) At a speed exceeding the posted speed limit upon a highway, expressway or freeway for which the Director has determined and declared a speed limit pursuant to Ohio R.C. 4511.21(I)(2) or (L)(2).

(e) In every charge of violation of this section the affidavit and warrant shall specify the time, place and speed at which the defendant is alleged to have driven, and in charges made in reliance upon subsection (c) hereof also the speed which subsections (b)(1)A. to (b)(6) hereof, or a limit declared or established pursuant to this section declares is prima-facie lawful at the time and place of such alleged violation, except that in affidavits where a person is alleged to have driven at a greater speed than will permit the person to bring the vehicle to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead the affidavit and warrant need not specify the speed at which the defendant is alleged to have driven.

(f) When a speed in excess of both a prima-facie limitation and a limitation in subsection (d) hereof is alleged, the defendant shall be charged in a single affidavit, alleging a single act, with a violation indicated of both subsections (b)(1)A. to (b)(6) hereof, or of a limit declared or established pursuant to this section by the Director or local authorities, and of the limitation in subsection (d) hereof. If the court finds a violation of subsection (b)(1)A. to (b)(6) hereof, or a limit declared or established pursuant to this section has occurred, it shall enter a judgment of conviction under such subsection and dismiss the charge under subsection (d) hereof. If it finds no violation of subsections (b)(1)A. to (b)(6) hereof or a limit declared or established pursuant to this section, it shall then consider whether the evidence supports a conviction under subsection (d) hereof.

(g) Points shall be assessed for violation of a limitation under subsection (d) hereof in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4510.036.

(h) Whenever, in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4511.21 or this section, the speed limitations as established herein have been altered, either higher or lower, and the appropriate signs giving notice have been erected as required, operators of motor vehicles shall be governed by the speed limitations set forth on such signs. It is prima-facie unlawful for any person to exceed the speed limits posted upon such signs.

- (i) As used in this section:
- (1) "Interstate system" has the same meaning as in 23 U.S.C.A. 101.
  - (2) "Commercial bus" means a motor vehicle designed for carrying more than nine passengers and used for the transportation of persons for compensation.
  - (3) "Noncommercial bus" includes but is not limited to a school bus, or a motor vehicle operated solely for the transportation of persons associated with a charitable or nonprofit organization.
  - (4) "Outerbelt" means a portion of a freeway that is part of the interstate system and is located in the outer vicinity of a major municipal corporation or group of municipal corporations, as designated by the Director.
  - (5) "Rural" means an area outside urbanized areas and outside of a business or urban district, and areas that extend within urbanized areas where the roadway characteristics remain mostly unchanged from those outside the urbanized areas.
  - (6) "Urbanized area" has the same meaning as in 23 U.S.C. 101.
  - (7) "Divided" means a roadway having two or more travel lanes for vehicles moving in opposite directions and that is separated by a median of more than four feet, excluding turn lanes.
- (j)
- (1) A violation of any provision of this section is one of the following:
    - A. Except as otherwise provided in subsections (j)(1)B., (1)C., (2) and (3) of this section, a minor misdemeanor;
    - B. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two violations of any provision of this section or of any provision of Ohio R.C. 4511.21 or a municipal ordinance that is substantially similar to any provision of this section, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree;
    - C. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to three or more violations of any provision of this section or of any provision of Ohio R.C. 4511.21 or a municipal ordinance that is substantially similar to any provision of this section, a misdemeanor of the third degree.
  - (2) If the offender has not previously been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of any provision of Ohio R.C. 4511.21 or of any provision of a municipal ordinance that is substantially similar to Ohio R.C. 4511.21 and operated a motor vehicle faster than thirty-five miles an hour in a business district of a municipal corporation, faster than fifty miles an hour in other portions of a municipal corporation, or faster than thirty-five miles an hour in a school zone during recess or while children are going to or leaving school during the school's opening or closing hours, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.
  - (3) Notwithstanding subsection (j)(1) of this section, if the offender operated a motor vehicle in a construction zone where a sign was then posted in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4511.98, the court, in addition to all other penalties provided by law, shall impose upon the offender a fine of two times the usual amount imposed for the violation. No court shall impose

a fine of two times the usual amount imposed for the violation upon an offender if the offender alleges, in an affidavit filed with the court prior to the offender's sentencing, that the offender is indigent and is unable to pay the fine imposed pursuant to this subsection and if the court determines that the offender is an indigent person and unable to pay the fine.

- (4) If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.21)

**333.031 APPROACHING A STATIONARY PUBLIC SAFETY, EMERGENCY OR ROAD SERVICE VEHICLE.**

(a) The driver of a motor vehicle, upon approaching a stationary public safety vehicle, emergency vehicle, road service vehicle, waste collection vehicle, vehicle used by the Public Utilities Commission to conduct motor vehicle inspections in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4923.04 and 4923.06 or a highway maintenance vehicle that is displaying the appropriate visual signals by means of flashing, oscillating or rotating lights, as prescribed in Section 337.16, shall do either of the following:

- (1) If the driver of the motor vehicle is traveling on a street or highway that consists of at least two lanes that carry traffic in the same direction of travel as that of the driver's motor vehicle, the driver shall proceed with due caution and, if possible with due regard to the road, weather, and traffic conditions, shall change lanes into a lane that is not adjacent to that of the stationary public safety vehicle, emergency vehicle, road service vehicle, waste collection vehicle, vehicle used by the Public Utilities Commission to conduct motor vehicle inspections in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4923.04 and 4923.06 or a highway maintenance vehicle.
- (2) If the driver is not traveling on a street or highway of a type described in subsection (a)(1) of this section, or if the driver is traveling on a highway of that type but it is not possible to change lanes or if to do so would be unsafe, the driver shall proceed with due caution, reduce the speed of the motor vehicle, and maintain a safe speed for the road, weather and traffic conditions.

(b) This section does not relieve the driver of a public safety vehicle, emergency vehicle, road service vehicle, waste collection vehicle, vehicle used by the Public Utilities Commission to conduct motor vehicle inspections in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4923.04 and 4923.06, or a highway maintenance vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and property upon the highway.

(c) No person shall fail to drive a motor vehicle in compliance with subsection (a)(1) or (2) of this section when so required by subsection (a) of this section.

- (d) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.



- (2) Notwithstanding Section 303.99(b), upon a finding that a person operated a motor vehicle in violation of subsection (c) of this section, the court, in addition to all other penalties provided by law, shall impose a fine of two times the usual amount imposed for the violation.
- (3) If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code.

(e) The offense established under this section is a strict liability offense and Ohio R.C. 2901.20 does not apply. The designation of this offense as a strict liability offense shall not be construed to imply that any other offense, for which there is no specified degree of culpability, is not a strict liability offense. (ORC 4511.213)

#### **333.04 STOPPING VEHICLE; SLOW SPEED; POSTED MINIMUM SPEEDS.**

(a) No person shall stop or operate a vehicle at such an unreasonably slow speed as to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, except when stopping or reduced speed is necessary for safe operation or to comply with law.

(b) Whenever, in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4511.22(B), the minimum speed limit of a controlled-access highway, expressway or freeway has been declared and the appropriate signs giving notice have been erected as required, operators of motor vehicles shall be governed by the speed limitations set forth on such signs. No person shall operate a motor vehicle below the speed limits posted upon such signs except when necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

(c) In a case involving a violation of this section, the trier of fact, in determining whether the vehicle was being operated at an unreasonably slow speed, shall consider the capabilities of the vehicle and its operator.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.22)

#### **333.05 SPEED LIMITATIONS OVER BRIDGES.**

(a) No person shall operate a vehicle over any bridge or other elevated structure constituting a part of a street at a speed which is greater than the maximum speed that can be maintained with safety to such bridge or structure, when such structure is posted with authorized signs stating such maximum speed. Such signs shall be erected and maintained at a distance of at least 100 feet before each end of such structure.

(b) Upon the trial of any person charged with a violation of this section, proof of the determination of the maximum speed and the existence of such signs shall constitute prima-facie evidence of the maximum speed which can be maintained with safety to such bridge or structure.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.23)

### **333.06 SPEED EXCEPTIONS FOR EMERGENCY OR SAFETY VEHICLES.**

The prima-facie speed limitations set forth in Section 333.03 do not apply to emergency vehicles or public safety vehicles when they are responding to emergency calls and are equipped with and displaying at least one flashing, rotating or oscillating light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the front of the vehicle and when the drivers thereof sound audible signals by bell, siren or exhaust whistle. This section does not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle or public safety vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the street or highway. (ORC 4511.24)

### **333.07 STREET RACING PROHIBITED.**

(a) As used in this section, "street racing" means the operation of two or more vehicles from a point side by side at accelerating speeds in a competitive attempt to out-distance each other or the operation of one or more vehicles over a common selected course, from the same point to the same point, wherein timing is made of the participating vehicles involving competitive accelerations or speeds.

Persons rendering assistance in any manner to such competitive use of vehicles shall be equally charged as the participants. The operation of two or more vehicles side by side either at speeds in excess of prima-facie lawful speeds established by Section 333.03 or rapidly accelerating from a common starting point to a speed in excess of such prima-facie lawful speeds shall be prima-facie evidence of street racing.

(b) No person shall participate in street racing upon any public road, street or highway in this Municipality.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of street racing, a misdemeanor of the first degree. In addition to any other sanctions, the court shall suspend the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license or nonresident operating privilege for not less than thirty days or more than three years. No judge shall suspend the first thirty days of any suspension of an offender's license, permit, or privilege imposed under this subsection. (ORC 4511.251)

### **333.08 CERTAIN STREETS TO BE ALLEYS.**

The following streets are declared to be alleys, as defined in Section 301.03:

(a) That portion of the northbound lanes of Far Hills Avenue which is utilized as a parking area and cruise lane, which is separated from the remaining paved portion of Far Hills Avenue by a section of real estate improved with physical barriers thereon, and which lies immediately to the east of said remaining northbound lanes of Far Hills Avenue, said portion beginning at the south city limits and extending northward to Peach Orchard Drive.

- (b) That portion of the southbound lanes of Far Hills Avenue which is utilized as a parking area and cruise lane, which is separated from the remaining paved portion of Far Hills Avenue by a section of real estate improved with physical barriers thereon, and which lies immediately to the west of said remaining southbound lanes of Far Hills Avenue, said portion beginning at Peach Orchard Drive and extending southward to the north property line of Lot 3854, said Lot 3854 being located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Dell Park Avenue and Far Hills Avenue.  
(Ord. 2917. Passed 5-5-75.)

### **333.09 CERTAIN STREETS NOT TO BE THROUGH STREETS OR HIGHWAYS.**

The following streets are hereby designated not to fall in the classification of "through streets or highways," as defined in 301.43, with the result that the prima-facie speed limit applicable to these streets shall be twenty-five miles per hour: Shafor Boulevard and East Schantz Avenue. (Ord. 2966. Passed 6-21-76; Ord. 3066. Passed 10-2-78.)

### **333.10 OPERATION IN VIOLATION OF IMMOBILIZATION ORDER.**

(a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle or permit the operation of a motor vehicle upon any public or private property used by the public for vehicular travel or parking knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the motor vehicle has been ordered immobilized pursuant to an immobilization order issued under Ohio R.C. 4503.233.

(b) A motor vehicle that is operated by a person during a violation of subsection (a) hereof shall be criminally forfeited in accordance with the procedures contained in Ohio R.C. 4503.234.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree.  
(ORC 4503.236)

### **333.11 TEXTING WHILE DRIVING PROHIBITED.**

(a) No person shall drive a motor vehicle on any street, highway, or property open to the public for vehicular traffic while using a handheld electronic wireless communications device to write, send, or read a text-based communication.

- (b) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply to any of the following:
- (1) A person using a handheld electronic wireless communications device in that manner for emergency purposes, including an emergency contact with a law enforcement agency, hospital or health care provider, fire department, or other similar emergency agency or entity;
  - (2) A person driving a public safety vehicle who uses a handheld electronic wireless communications device in that manner in the course of the person's duties;
  - (3) A person using a handheld electronic wireless communications device in that manner whose motor vehicle is in a stationary position and who is outside a lane of travel;
  - (4) A person reading, selecting, or entering a name or telephone number in a handheld electronic wireless communications device for the purpose of making or receiving a telephone call;
  - (5) A person receiving wireless messages on a device regarding the operation or navigation of a motor vehicle; safety-related information, including emergency, traffic or weather alerts; or data used primarily by the motor vehicle;
  - (6) A person receiving wireless messages via radio waves;
  - (7) A person using a device for navigation purposes;

- (8) A person conducting wireless interpersonal communication with a device that does not require manually entering letters, numbers, or symbols or reading text messages, except to activate, deactivate, or initiate the device or a feature or function of the device;
- (9) A person operating a commercial truck while using a mobile data terminal that transmits and receives data;
- (10) A person using a handheld electronic wireless communications device in conjunction with a voice-operated or hands-free device feature or function of the vehicle.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no law enforcement officer shall cause an operator of an automobile being operated on any street or highway to stop the automobile for the sole purpose of determining whether a violation of subsection (a) of this section has been or is being committed or for the sole purpose of issuing a ticket, citation or summons for a violation of that nature or causing the arrest of or commencing a prosecution of a person for a violation of that nature, and no law enforcement officer shall view the interior or visually inspect any automobile being operated on any street or highway for the sole purpose of determining whether a violation of that nature has been or is being committed.

(d) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

(e) A prosecution for a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.204 does not preclude a prosecution for a violation of a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance based on the same conduct. However, if an offender is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.204 and is also convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance based on the same conduct, the two offenses are allied offenses of similar import under Ohio R.C. 2941.25.

(f) As used in this section:

- (1) “Electronic wireless communications device” includes any of the following:
  - A. A wireless telephone;
  - B. A text-messaging device;
  - C. A personal digital assistant;
  - D. A computer, including a laptop computer and a computer tablet;
  - E. Any other substantially similar wireless device that is designed or used to communicate text.
- (2) “Voice-operated or hands-free device” means a device that allows the user to vocally compose or send, or to listen to a text-based communication without the use of either hand except to activate, or deactivate a feature or function.
- (3) “Write, send or read a text-based communication” means to manually write or send, or read a text-based communication using an electronic wireless communications device, including manually writing or sending, or reading communications referred to as text messages, instant messages, or electronic mail. (ORC 4511.204)

**CHAPTER 335**  
**Licensing; Accidents**

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|---------|--|---------|---|
| 335.01  | <b>Driver's license or commercial driver's license required.</b>   | 335.073 | <b>Driving without complying with license reinstatement requirements.</b>       |
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| 335.021 | <b>Ohio driver's license required for in state residents.</b>  | 335.08  | <b>Operation or sale without certificate of title.</b>                          |
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| 335.07  | <b>Driving under suspension or license restriction.</b>  | 335.14  | <b>Vehicle accident resulting in damage to realty.</b>                          |
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| 335.072 | <b>Driving under financial responsibility law suspension or cancellation; driving under a nonpayment of judgment suspension.</b> |         |   |

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Deposit of driver's license as bond - see Ohio R.C. 2937.221  
 Motor vehicle licensing law - see Ohio R.C. Ch. 4503  
 Driver's license law - see Ohio R.C. Ch. 4507  
 Power of trial court of record to suspend or revoke license for certain violations - see Ohio R.C. Ch. 4510  
 State point system suspension - see Ohio R.C. 4510.03.6  
 State accident reports - see Ohio R.C. 4509.01(J), 4509.06, 4509.74, 5502.11  
 Motorized bicycle operator's license - see Ohio R.C. 4511.521  
 Glass removal from street after accident - see TRAF. 311.01

**335.01 DRIVER'S LICENSE OR COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIRED.**

- (a) (1) No person, except those expressly exempted under Ohio R.C. 4507.03, 4507.04, and 4507.05, shall operate any motor vehicle upon a public road or highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking in this Municipality unless the person has a valid driver's license issued under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4507 or a commercial driver's license issued under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4506.
- (2) No person, except a person expressly exempted under Ohio R.C. 4507.03, 4507.04, and 4507.05, shall operate any motorcycle upon a public road or highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking in this Municipality unless the person has a valid license as a motorcycle operator that was issued upon application by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4507. The license shall be in the form of an endorsement, as determined by the Registrar, upon a driver's or commercial driver's license, if the person has a valid license to operate a motor vehicle or commercial motor vehicle, or in the form of a restricted license as provided in Ohio R.C. 4507.14, if the person does not have a valid license to operate a motor vehicle or commercial motor vehicle.

(b) Upon the request or motion of the prosecuting authority, a noncertified copy of the law enforcement automated data system report or a noncertified copy of a record of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles that shows the name, date of birth, and social security number of a person charged with a violation of subsection (a)(1) or (2) of this section may be admitted into evidence as prima-facie evidence that the person did not have either a valid driver's or commercial driver's license at the time of the alleged violation of subsection (a)(1) of this section or a valid license as a motorcycle operator either in the form of an endorsement upon a driver's or commercial driver's license or a restricted license at the time of the alleged violation of subsection (a)(2) of this section. The person charged with a violation of subsection (a)(1) or (2) of this section may offer evidence to rebut this prima-facie evidence.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of operating a motor vehicle or motorcycle without a valid license and shall be punished as follows:

- (1) If the trier of fact finds that the offender never has held a valid driver's or commercial driver's license issued by this state or any other jurisdiction, or, in a case involving the operation of a motorcycle by the offender, if the offender has never held a valid license as a motorcycle operator, either in the form of an endorsement upon a driver's or commercial driver's license or in the form of a restricted license, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the offense is an unclassified misdemeanor. When the offense is an unclassified misdemeanor, the offender shall be sentenced pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.21 to 2929.28, except that the offender shall not be sentenced to a jail term; the offender shall not be sentenced to a community residential sanction pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.26; notwithstanding division (A)(2)(a) of Ohio R.C. 2929.28, the offender may be fined up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000); and, notwithstanding division (A)(3) of Ohio R.C. 2929.27, the offender may be ordered pursuant to division (C) of that section to serve a term of community service of up to five hundred hours.

The failure of an offender to complete a term of community service imposed by the court may be punished as indirect criminal contempt under division (A) of Ohio R.C. 2705.02 that may be filed in the underlying case. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any violation of Ohio R.C. 4510.12 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the offense is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

- (2) If the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or, in a case involving the operation of a motorcycle by the offender, the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license bearing the motorcycle endorsement or the offender's restricted license was expired at the time of the offense, except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the offense is a minor misdemeanor. If, within three years of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4510.12 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the offense is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

(d) The court shall not impose a license suspension for a first violation of this section or if more than three years have passed since the offender's last violation of Ohio R.C. 4510.12 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance.

(e) If the offender is sentenced under subsection (c)(2) hereof, if within three years of the offense the offender previously was convicted of or pleaded guilty to one or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4510.12 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, and if the offender's license was expired for more than six months at the time of the offense, the court may impose a class seven suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(7) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02.  
(ORC 4510.12)

### **335.02 PERMITTING OPERATION WITHOUT VALID LICENSE; ONE LICENSE PERMITTED.**

(a) No person shall permit the operation of a motor vehicle upon any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking knowing the operator does not have a valid driver's license issued to the operator by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4507 or a valid commercial driver's license issued under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4506.

(b) No person shall receive a driver's license, or a motorcycle operator's endorsement of a driver's or commercial driver's license, unless and until he surrenders to the Registrar all valid licenses issued to him by another jurisdiction recognized by the State of Ohio. No person shall be permitted to have more than one valid license at any time. (ORC 4507.02)

- (c) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor. When the offense is an unclassified misdemeanor, the offender shall be sentenced pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.21 to 2929.28, except that the offender shall not be sentenced to a jail term; the offender shall not be sentenced to a community residential sanction pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.26; notwithstanding division (A)(2)(a) of Ohio R.C. 2929.28, the offender may be fined up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and, notwithstanding division (A)(3) of Ohio R.C. 2929.27, the offender may be ordered pursuant to

division (C) of that section to serve a term of community service of up to five hundred hours. The failure of an offender to complete a term of community service imposed by the court may be punished as indirect criminal contempt under division (A) of Ohio R.C. 2705.02 that may be filed in the underlying case. If, within three years of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4507.02 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the offense is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

- (2) Whoever violates subsection (b) hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 4507.02; 4507.99)

### **335.021 OHIO DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIRED FOR IN STATE RESIDENTS.**

(a) Any person who becomes a resident of this State, within thirty days of becoming a resident, shall surrender any driver's license issued by another state to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles or a Deputy Registrar. If such a person intends to operate a motor vehicle upon the public roads or highways, the person shall apply for a driver's license in this State. If the person fails to apply for a driver's license within thirty days of becoming a resident, the person shall not operate any motor vehicle in this Municipality under a license issued by another state.

- (b)
  - (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
  - (2) The offense established under subsection (b)(1) of this section is a strict liability offense and strict liability is a culpable mental state for purposes of Ohio R.C. 2901.20. The designation of this offense as a strict liability offense shall not be construed to imply that any other offense, for which there is no specified degree of culpability, is not a strict liability offense.

(c) For purposes of subsection (a) of this section, "resident" means any person to whom any of the following applies:

- (1) The person maintains their principal residence in this State and does not reside in this State as a result of the person's active service in the United States Armed Forces.
- (2) The person is determined by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to be a resident in accordance with standards adopted by the Registrar under Ohio R.C. 4507.01. (ORC 4507.213)

### **335.03 DRIVING WITH TEMPORARY INSTRUCTION PERMIT; CURFEW.**

(a) No holder of a temporary instruction permit issued under Ohio R.C. 4507.05(A) shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking in violation of the following conditions:

- (1) If the permit is issued to a person who is at least fifteen years six months of age, but less than sixteen years of age:
  - A. The permit and identification card are in the holder's immediate possession;
  - B. The holder is accompanied by an eligible adult who actually occupies the seat beside the permit holder and does not have a prohibited concentration of alcohol in the whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath, or urine as provided in Ohio R.C. 4511.19(A);
  - C. The total number of occupants of the vehicle does not exceed the total number of occupant restraining devices originally installed in the motor vehicle by its manufacturer, and each occupant of the vehicle is wearing all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device.



- (2) If the permit is issued to a person who is at least sixteen years of age:
- A. The permit and identification card are in the holder's immediate possession;
  - B. The holder is accompanied by a licensed operator who is at least twenty-one years of age and is actually occupying a seat beside the driver and does not have a prohibited concentration of alcohol in the whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath, or urine as provided in Ohio R.C. 4511.19(A);
  - C. The total number of occupants of the vehicle does not exceed the total number of occupant restraining devices originally installed in the motor vehicle by its manufacturer, and each occupant of the vehicle is wearing all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (b) hereof, no holder of a temporary instruction permit that is issued under Ohio R.C. 4507.05(A) and that is issued on or after July 1, 1998, and who has not attained the age of eighteen years, shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking between the hours of midnight and six a.m.

The holder of a permit issued under Ohio R.C. 4507.05(A) on or after July 1, 1998, who has not attained the age of eighteen years, may operate a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking between the hours of midnight and six a.m. if, at the time of such operation, the holder is accompanied by the holder's parent, guardian, or custodian, and the parent, guardian or custodian holds a current valid driver's or commercial driver's license issued by this State and is actually occupying a seat beside the permit holder, and does not have a prohibited concentration of alcohol in the whole blood, blood serum or plasma, breath, or urine as provided in Section 333.01(a).

- (c) As used in this section:
- (1) "Eligible adult" means any of the following:
    - A. An instructor of a driver education course approved by the Department of Education or a driver training course approved by the Department of Public Safety;
    - B. Any of the following persons who holds a current valid driver's or commercial driver's license issued by this State:
      - 1. A parent, guardian or custodian of the permit holder;
      - 2. A person twenty-one years of age or older who acts in loco parentis of the permit holder.
  - (2) "Occupant restraining device" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4513.263.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4507.05)

### **335.031 DRIVING WITH PROBATIONARY LICENSE; CURFEW.**

- (a) (1) A. No holder of a probationary driver's license who has held the license for less than twelve months shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking between the hours of midnight and six a.m. unless the holder is accompanied by the holder's parent or guardian.

- B. No holder of a probationary driver's license who has held the license for twelve months or longer shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking between the hours of one a.m. and five a.m. unless the holder is accompanied by the holder's parent or guardian.
- (2) A. Subject to subsection (c)(1) of this section, subsection (a)(1)A. of this section does not apply to the holder of a probationary driver's license who is doing either of the following:
1. Traveling to or from work between the hours of midnight and six a.m. provided that the holder has in the holder's immediate possession written documentation from the holder's employer.
  2. Traveling to or from an official function sponsored by the school the holder attends between the hours of midnight and six a.m., provided that the holder has in the holder's immediate possession written documentation from an appropriate official of the school;
  3. Traveling to or from an official religious event between the hours of midnight and six a.m., provided that the holder has in the holder's immediate possession written documentation from an appropriate official affiliated with the event.
- B. Subsection (a)(1)B. of this section does not apply to the holder of a probationary driver's license who is doing either of the following:
1. Traveling to or from work between the hours of one a.m. and five a.m., provided that the holder has in the holder's immediate possession written documentation from the holder's employer.
  2. Traveling to or from an official function sponsored by the school the holder attends between the hours of one a.m. and five a.m., provided that the holder has in the holder's immediate possession written documentation from an appropriate official of the school;
  3. Traveling to or from an official religious event between the hours of one a.m. and five a.m., provided that the holder has in the holder's immediate possession written documentation from an appropriate official affiliated with the event.
- (3) An employer, school official or official affiliated with a religious event is not liable in damages in a civil action for any injury, death or loss to person or property that allegedly arises from, or is related to, the fact that the employer, school official, or official affiliated with a religious event provided the holder of a probationary driver's license with the written documentation described in subsection (a)(2) of this section. The Registrar of Motor Vehicles shall make available at no cost a form to serve as the written documentation described in subsection (a)(2) of this section, and employers, school officials, officials affiliated with religious events, and holders of probationary driver's licenses may utilize that form or may choose to utilize any other written documentation to meet the requirements of that subsection.

- (4) No holder of a probationary driver's license who has held the license for less than twelve months shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking with more than one person who is not a family member occupying the vehicle unless the probationary license holder is accompanied by the probationary license holder's parent, guardian or custodian.

(b) It is an affirmative defense to a violation of subsection (a)(1)A. or B. of this section if, at the time of the violation, an emergency existed that required the holder of the probationary driver's license to operate a motor vehicle in violation of subsection (a)(1)A. or B. of this section; or the holder was an emancipated minor.

- (c)
  - (1) If a person is issued a probationary driver's license prior to attaining the age of seventeen years and the person pleads guilty to, is convicted of, or is adjudicated in juvenile court of having committed a moving violation during the six-month period commencing on the date on which the person is issued the probationary driver's license, the court with jurisdiction over the violation may order that the holder must be accompanied by the holder's parent or guardian whenever the holder is operating a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking for a period not to exceed six months or the date the holder attains the age of seventeen years, whichever occurs first.
  - (2) Any person who is subject to the operating restrictions established under subsection (c)(1) of this section as a result of a first moving violation may petition the court for driving privileges without being accompanied by the holder's parent or guardian during the period of time determined by the court under that subsection. In granting the driving privileges, the court shall specify the purposes of the privileges and shall issue the person appropriate forms setting forth the privileges granted. If a person is convicted of, pleads guilty to, or is adjudicated in juvenile court of having committed a second or subsequent moving violation, the court with jurisdiction over the violation may terminate any driving privileges previously granted under this division.
  - (3) No person shall violate any operating restriction imposed under subsection (c)(1) or (2) of this section.

(d) No holder of a probationary license shall operate a motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking unless the total number of occupants of the vehicle does not exceed the total number of occupant restraining devices originally installed in the motor vehicle by its manufacturer, and each occupant of the vehicle is wearing all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no law enforcement officer shall cause the operator of a motor vehicle being operated on any street or highway to stop the motor vehicle for the sole purpose of determining whether each occupant of the motor vehicle is wearing all of the available elements of a properly adjusted occupant restraining device as required by subsection (d) hereof, or for the sole purpose of issuing a ticket, citation, or summons if the requirement in that subsection has been or is being violated, or for causing the arrest of or commencing a prosecution of a person for a violation of that requirement.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no law enforcement officer shall cause the operator of a motor vehicle being operated on any street or highway to stop the motor vehicle for the sole purpose of determining whether a violation of subsection (a)(1)A. or B. hereof has been or is being committed or for the sole purpose of issuing a ticket, citation, or summons for such a violation or for causing the arrest of or commencing a prosecution of a person for such violation.

(g) As used in this section:

- (1) "Occupant restraining device" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4513.263.
- (2) "Family member" of a probationary license holder includes any of the following:
  - A. A spouse;
  - B. A child or stepchild;
  - C. A parent, stepparent, grandparent, or parent-in-law;
  - D. An aunt or uncle;
  - E. A sibling, whether or the whole or half blood or by adoption, a brother-in-law or a sister-in-law;
  - F. A son or daughter of the probationary license holder's stepparent if the stepparent has not adopted the probationary license holder;
  - G. An eligible adult, as defined in Ohio R.C. 4507.05.
- (3) "Moving violation" means any violation of any statute or ordinance that regulates the operation of vehicles, streetcars, or trackless trolleys on the highways or streets. "Moving violation" does not include a violation of Ohio R.C. 4513.263 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, or a violation of any statute or ordinance regulating pedestrians or the parking of vehicles, vehicle size or load limitations, vehicle fitness requirements, or vehicle registration.

(h) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4507.071)

### **335.032 USE OF ELECTRONIC WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE PROHIBITED WHILE DRIVING.**

(a) No holder of a temporary instruction permit who has not attained the age of eighteen years and no holder of a probationary driver's license shall drive a motor vehicle on any street, highway, or property used by the public for purposes of vehicular traffic or parking while using in any manner an electronic wireless communications device.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply to either of the following:

- (1) A person using an electronic wireless communications device for emergency purposes, including an emergency contact with a law enforcement agency, hospital or health care provider, fire department, or other similar emergency agency or entity;
- (2) A person using an electronic wireless communications device whose motor vehicle is in a stationary position and the motor vehicle is outside a lane of travel;
- (3) A person using a navigation device in a voice-operated or hands-free manner who does not manipulate the device while driving.

(c) (1) Except as provided in subsection (c)(2) of this section, whoever violates subsection (a) of this section shall be fined one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00). In addition, the court shall impose a class seven suspension of the offender's driver's license or permit for a definite period of sixty days.

- (2) If the person previously has been adjudicated a delinquent child or a juvenile traffic offender for a violation of this section, whoever violates this section shall be fined three hundred dollars (\$300.00). In addition, the court shall impose a class seven suspension of the person's driver's license or permit for a definite period of one year.

(d) The filing of a sworn complaint against a person for a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.205 does not preclude the filing of a sworn complaint for a violation of a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance for the same conduct. However, if a person is adjudicated a delinquent child or a juvenile traffic offender for a violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.205 and is also adjudicated a delinquent child or a juvenile traffic offender for a violation of a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance for the same conduct, the two offenses are allied offenses of similar import under Ohio R.C. 2941.25.

(e) As used in this section, "electronic wireless communications device" includes any of the following:

- (1) A wireless telephone;
- (2) A personal digital assistant;
- (3) A computer, including a laptop computer and a computer tablet;
- (4) A text-messaging device;
- (5) Any other substantially similar electronic wireless device that is designed or used to communicate via voice, image, or written word.  
(ORC 4511.205)

#### **335.04 CERTAIN ACTS PROHIBITED.**

- (a) No person shall do any of the following:
  - (1) Display, or cause or permit to be displayed, or possess any identification card, driver's or commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit or commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit knowing the same to be fictitious, or to have been canceled, suspended or altered;
  - (2) Lend to a person not entitled thereto, or knowingly permit a person not entitled thereto to use any identification card, driver's or commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit or commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit issued to the person so lending or permitting the use thereof;
  - (3) Display or represent as one's own, any identification card, driver's or commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit or commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit not issued to the person so displaying the same;
  - (4) Fail to surrender to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, upon the Registrar's demand, any identification card, driver's or commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit or commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit that has been suspended or canceled;
  - (5) In any application for an identification card, driver's or commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit or commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit, or any renewal or duplicate thereof, knowingly conceal a material fact, or present any physician's statement required under Ohio R.C. 4507.08 or 4507.081 when knowing the same to be false or fictitious.
- (b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.  
(ORC 4507.30)

**335.05 WRONGFUL ENTRUSTMENT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE.**

(a) No person shall permit a motor vehicle owned by the person or under the person's control to be driven by another if any of the following apply:

- (1) The offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the other person does not have a valid driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or valid nonresident driving privileges.
- (2) The offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the other person's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privileges have been suspended or canceled under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4510, or any other provision of the Ohio Revised Code or this Traffic Code.
- (3) The offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the other person's act of driving the motor vehicle would violate any prohibition contained in Ohio R.C. Chapter 4509.
- (4) The offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the other person's act of driving would violate Ohio R.C. 4511.19 or any substantially equivalent municipal ordinance.
- (5) The offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the vehicle is the subject of an immobilization waiver order issued under Ohio R.C. 4503.235 and the other person is prohibited from operating the vehicle under that order.

(b) Without limiting or precluding the consideration of any other evidence in determining whether a violation of subsection (a)(1), (2), (3), (4) or (5) of this section has occurred, it shall be prima-facie evidence that the offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the operator of the motor vehicle owned by the offender or under the offender's control is in a category described in subsection (a)(1), (2), (3), (4) or (5) of this section if any of the following applies:

- (1) Regarding an operator allegedly in the category described in subsection (a)(1), (3) or (5) of this section, the offender and the operator of the motor vehicle reside in the same household and are related by consanguinity or affinity.
- (2) Regarding an operator allegedly in the category described in subsection (a)(2) of this section, the offender and the operator of the motor vehicle reside in the same household, and the offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the operator has been charged with or convicted of any violation of law or ordinance, or has committed any other act or omission, that would or could result in the suspension or cancellation of the operator's license, permit or privilege.
- (3) Regarding an operator allegedly in the category described in subsection (a)(4) of this section, the offender and the operator of the motor vehicle occupied the motor vehicle together at the time of the offense.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of wrongful entrustment of a motor vehicle and shall be punished as provided in subsections (c) to (h) of this section.

- (1) Except as provided in subsection (c)(2) of this section, whoever violates subsection (a)(1), (2) or (3) of this section is guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor. When the offense is an unclassified misdemeanor, the offender shall be sentenced pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.21 to 2929.28, except that the offender shall not be sentenced to a jail term; the offender shall not be sentenced to a community residential sanction pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.26; notwithstanding division (A)(2)(a) of Ohio R.C. 2929.28, the offender may be fined up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000); and, notwithstanding division (A)(3) of Ohio R.C. 2929.27, the offender may be

ordered pursuant to division (C) of that section to serve a term of community service of up to five hundred hours. The failure of an offender to complete a term of community service imposed by the court may be punished as indirect criminal contempt under division (A) of Ohio R.C. 2705.02.

- (2) A. If, within three years of a violation of subsection (a)(1), (2) or (3) of this section, the offender previously has pleaded guilty to or been convicted of two or more violations of division (A)(1), (2) or (3) of Ohio R.C. 4511.203 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- B. Whoever violates subsection (a)(4) or (5) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- (3) For any violation of this section, in addition to the penalties imposed under Section 303.99, the court may impose a class seven suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(7) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02, and, if the vehicle involved in the offense is registered in the name of the offender, the court may order one of the following:
  - A. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c)(3)B. or C. of this section, the court may order, for thirty days, the immobilization of the vehicle involved in the offense and the impoundment of that vehicle's license plates. If issued, the order shall be issued and enforced under Ohio R.C. 4503.233.
  - B. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.203 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the court may order, for sixty days, the immobilization of the vehicle involved in the offense and the impoundment of that vehicle's license plates. If issued, the order shall be issued and enforced under Ohio R.C. 4503.233.
  - C. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4511.203 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the court may order the criminal forfeiture to the state of the vehicle involved in the offense. If issued, the order shall be issued and enforced under Ohio R.C. 4503.234.

If title to a motor vehicle that is subject to an order for criminal forfeiture under this subsection is assigned or transferred and division (B)(2) or (3) of Ohio R.C. 4503.234 applies, in addition to or independent of any other penalty established by law, the court may fine the offender the value of the vehicle as determined by publications of the national automobile dealer's association. The proceeds from any fine imposed under this subsection shall be distributed in accordance with division (C)(2) of Ohio R.C. 4503.234.

(d) If a court orders the immobilization of a vehicle under subsection (c) of this section, the court shall not release the vehicle from the immobilization before the termination of the period of immobilization ordered unless the court is presented with current proof of financial responsibility with respect to that vehicle.

(e) If a court orders the criminal forfeiture of a vehicle under subsection (c) of this section, upon receipt of the order from the court, neither the Registrar of Motor Vehicles nor any deputy registrar shall accept any application for the registration or transfer of registration of any motor vehicle owned or leased by the person named in the order. The period of denial shall be five years after the date the order is issued, unless, during that five-year period, the court with jurisdiction of the offense that resulted in the order terminates the forfeiture and notifies the Registrar of the termination. If the court terminates the forfeiture and notifies the Registrar, the Registrar shall take all necessary measures to permit the person to register a vehicle owned or leased by the person or to transfer the registration of the vehicle.

(f) This section does not apply to motor vehicle rental dealers or motor vehicle leasing dealers, as defined in Ohio R.C. 4549.65.

(g) Evidence of a conviction of, plea of guilty to, or adjudication as a delinquent child for a violation of this section or a substantially similar municipal ordinance shall not be admissible as evidence in any civil action that involves the offender or delinquent child who is the subject of the conviction, plea, or adjudication and that arises from the wrongful entrustment of a motor vehicle.

(h) For purposes of this section, a vehicle is owned by a person if, at the time of a violation of this section, the vehicle is registered in the person's name.  
(ORC 4511.203)

### **335.06 DISPLAY OF LICENSE.**

(a) The operator of a motor vehicle shall display the operator's driver's license, or furnish satisfactory proof that the operator has a driver's license, upon demand of any peace officer or of any person damaged or injured in any collision in which the licensee may be involved. When a demand is properly made and the operator has the operator's driver's license on or about the operator's person, the operator shall not refuse to display the license. A person's failure to furnish satisfactory evidence that the person is licensed under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4507 when the person does not have the person's license on or about the person's person shall be prima-facie evidence of the person's not having obtained a driver's license.

(b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b)(2) hereof, whoever violates this section is guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor. When the offense is an unclassified misdemeanor, the offender shall be sentenced pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.21 to 2929.28, except that the offender shall not be sentenced to a jail term; the offender shall not be sentenced to a community residential sanction pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.26; notwithstanding division (A)(2)(a) of Ohio R.C. 2929.28, the offender may be fined up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000); and, notwithstanding division (A)(3) of Ohio R.C. 2929.27, the offender may be ordered pursuant to division (C) of that section to serve a term of community service of up to five hundred hours. The failure of an offender to complete a term of community service imposed by the court may be punished as indirect criminal contempt under division (A) of Ohio R.C. 2705.02 that may be filed in the underlying case.



- (2) If, within three years of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4507.35 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the offense is a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 4507.35)

**335.07 DRIVING UNDER SUSPENSION OR LICENSE RESTRICTION.**

(a) Except as provided under subsection (b) hereof and Sections 335.072 and 335.074, no person whose driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privilege has been suspended under any provision of the Ohio Revised Code, other than Ohio R.C. Chapter 4509, or under any applicable law in any other jurisdiction in which the person's license or permit was issued shall operate any motor vehicle upon the public roads and highways or upon any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking within this Municipality during the period of suspension unless the person is granted limited driving privileges and is operating the vehicle in accordance with the terms of the limited driving privileges.

(b) No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking in this Municipality in violation of any restriction of the person's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit imposed under division (D) of Ohio R.C. 4506.10 or under Ohio R.C. 4507.14.

(c) Upon the request or motion of the prosecuting authority, a noncertified copy of the law enforcement automated data system report or a noncertified copy of a record of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles that shows the name, date of birth, and social security number of a person charged with a violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section may be admitted into evidence as prima-facie evidence that the license of the person was under suspension at the time of the alleged violation of subsection (a) of this section or the person operated a motor vehicle in violation of a restriction at the time of the alleged violation of subsection (b) of this section. The person charged with a violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section may offer evidence to rebut this prima-facie evidence.

- (d) (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) or (b) hereof, is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. The court may impose upon the offender a class seven suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(7) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02.
- (2) A. Except as provided in subsection (d)(2)B. or C. of this section, the court, in addition to any other penalty that it imposes on the offender and if the vehicle is registered in the offender's name and if, within three years of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one violation of Ohio R.C. 4510.11 or Ohio R.C. 4510.111 or 4510.16, or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the court, in addition to or independent of any other sentence that it imposes upon the offender, may order the immobilization of the vehicle involved in the offense for thirty days and the impoundment of that vehicle's license plates for thirty days in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4503.233.

- B. If the vehicle is registered in the offender's name and if, within three years of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two violations of Ohio R.C. 4510.11 or any combination of two violations of Ohio R.C. 4510.11 or Ohio R.C. 4510.111 or 4510.16, or of a substantially similar municipal ordinance, the court, in addition to any other sentence that it imposes on the offender may order the immobilization of the vehicle involved in the offense for sixty days and the impoundment of that vehicle's license plates for sixty days in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4503.233.
- C. If the vehicle is registered in the offender's name and if, within three years of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to three or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4510.11, or any combination of three or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4501.11 or Ohio R.C. 4510.111 or 4510.16, or of a substantially similar municipal ordinance, the court, in addition to any other sentence that it imposes on the offender may order the criminal forfeiture of the vehicle involved in the offense to the State.

(e) Any order for immobilization and impoundment under this section shall be issued and enforced under Ohio R.C. 4503.233 and 4507.02, as applicable. The court shall not release a vehicle from immobilization ordered under this section unless the court is presented with current proof of financial responsibility with respect to that vehicle.

(f) Any order of criminal forfeiture under this section shall be issued and enforced under Ohio R.C. 4503.234. Upon receipt of the copy of the order from the court, neither the Ohio Registrar of Motor Vehicles nor a deputy registrar shall accept any application for the registration or transfer of registration of any motor vehicle owned or leased by the person named in the declaration of forfeiture. The period of registration denial shall be five years after the date of the order, unless, during that period, the court having jurisdiction of the offense that lead to the order terminates the forfeiture and notifies the Registrar of the termination. The Registrar shall then take necessary measures to permit the person to register a vehicle owned or leased by the person or to transfer registration of the vehicle.

(g) The offender shall provide the court with proof of financial responsibility as defined in Ohio R.C. 4509.01. If the offender fails to provide that proof of financial responsibility, then, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, the court may order restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.28 in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender's operation of the vehicle before, during, or after committing the offense for which the offender is sentenced under this section. (ORC 4510.11)

(h) Any person whose driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privileges are suspended as a repeat traffic offender under this section and who, during the suspension, operates any motor vehicle upon any public roads and highways is guilty of driving under a twelve-point suspension, a misdemeanor of the first degree. The court shall sentence the offender to a minimum term of three days in jail. No court shall suspend the first three days of jail time imposed pursuant to this subsection. (ORC 4510.037)

**335.071 DRIVING UNDER OVI SUSPENSION.**

(a) No person whose driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privilege has been suspended under Ohio R.C. 4511.19, 4511.191, or 4511.196 or under Ohio R.C. 4510.07 for a conviction of a violation of a municipal OVI ordinance shall operate any motor vehicle upon the public roads or highways within this Municipality during the period of the suspension.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of driving under OVI suspension. The court shall sentence the offender under Ohio R.C. Chapter 2929, subject to the differences authorized or required by this section.

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b)(2) or (3) of this section, driving under OVI suspension is a misdemeanor of the first degree. The court shall sentence the offender to all of the following:
  - A. A mandatory jail term of three consecutive days. The three-day term shall be imposed, unless, subject to subsection (c) of this section, the court instead imposes a sentence of not less than thirty consecutive days of house arrest with electronic monitoring. A period of house arrest with electronic monitoring imposed under this subsection shall not exceed six months. If the court imposes a mandatory three-day jail term under this subsection, the court may impose a jail term in addition to that term, provided that in no case shall the cumulative jail term imposed for the offense exceed six months.
  - B. A fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) and not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).
  - C. A license suspension under subsection (e) of this section.
- (2) If, within six years of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one violation of this section or one equivalent offense, driving under OVI suspension is a misdemeanor of the first degree. The court shall sentence the offender to all of the following:
  - A. A mandatory jail term of ten consecutive days. Notwithstanding the jail terms provided in Ohio R.C. Chapter 2929, the court may sentence the offender to a longer jail term of not more than one year. The ten-day mandatory jail term shall be imposed unless, subject to subsection (c) of this section, the court instead imposes a sentence of not less than ninety consecutive days of house arrest with electronic monitoring. The period of house arrest with electronic monitoring shall not exceed one year.
  - B. Notwithstanding the fines provided for in Ohio R.C. Chapter 2929, a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and not more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500).
  - C. A license suspension under subsection (e) of this section.

- (3) If, within six years of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of this section or two or more equivalent offenses, driving under OVI suspension is a misdemeanor of the first degree. The court shall sentence the offender to all of the following:
- A. A mandatory jail term of thirty consecutive days. Notwithstanding the jail terms provided in Ohio R.C. Chapter 2929, the court may sentence the offender to a longer jail term of not more than one year. The court shall not sentence the offender to a term of house arrest with electronic monitoring in lieu of the mandatory portion of the jail term.
  - B. Notwithstanding the fines set forth in Ohio R.C. Chapter 2929, a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and not more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500).
  - C. A license suspension under subsection (e) of this section.

(c) No court shall impose an alternative sentence of house arrest with electronic monitoring under subsection (b)(1) or (2) of this section unless, within sixty days of the date of sentencing, the court issues a written finding on the record that, due to the unavailability of space at the jail where the offender is required to serve the jail term imposed, the offender will not be able to begin serving that term within the sixty-day period following the date of sentencing.

An offender sentenced under this section to a period of house arrest with electronic monitoring shall be permitted work release during that period.

(d) Fifty per cent of any fine imposed by a court under subsection (b)(1), (2) or (3) of this section shall be deposited into the county indigent drivers alcohol treatment fund or municipal indigent drivers alcohol treatment fund under the control of that court, as created by the county or municipal corporation pursuant to division (H) of Ohio R.C. 4511.191.

(e) In addition to or independent of all other penalties provided by law or ordinance, the trial judge of any court of record or the mayor of a mayor's court shall impose on an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of this section a class seven suspension of the offender's driver's or commercial driver's license or permit or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(7) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02.

When permitted as specified in Ohio R.C. 4510.021, if the court grants limited driving privileges during a suspension imposed under this section, the privileges shall be granted on the additional condition that the offender must display restricted license plates, issued under Ohio R.C. 4503.231, on the vehicle driven subject to the privileges, except as provided in division (B) of that section.

A suspension of a commercial driver's license under this section shall be concurrent with any period of suspension or disqualification under Ohio R.C. 3123.58 or 4506.16. No person who is disqualified for life from holding a commercial driver's license under Ohio R.C. 4506.16 shall be issued a driver's license under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4507 during the period for which the commercial driver's license was suspended under this section, and no person whose commercial driver's license is suspended under this section shall be issued a driver's license under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4507 during the period of the suspension.

(f) The offender shall provide the court with proof of financial responsibility as defined in Ohio R.C. 4509.01. If the offender fails to provide that proof of financial responsibility, then, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, the court may order restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.28 in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender's operation of the vehicle before, during, or after committing the offense that is a misdemeanor of the first degree under this section for which the offender is sentenced. (ORC 4510.14)

- (g) (1) If a person is convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of a municipal ordinance that is substantially equivalent to Ohio R.C. 4510.14, the court, in addition to and independent of any sentence that it imposes upon the offender for the offense, if the vehicle the offender was operating at the time of the offense is registered in the offender's name, shall do whichever of the following is applicable:
- A. If, within six years of the current offense, the offender has not been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of Ohio R.C. 4510.14 or former division (D)(2) of Ohio R.C. 4507.02, or a municipal ordinance that is substantially equivalent to that section or former division, the court shall order the immobilization for thirty days of the vehicle involved in the offense and the impoundment for thirty days of the license plates of that vehicle in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4503.233.
  - B. If, within six years of the current offense, the offender has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one violation of Ohio R.C. 4510.14 or former division (D)(2) of Ohio R.C. 4507.02, or a municipal ordinance that is substantially equivalent to that section or former division, the court shall order the immobilization for sixty days of the vehicle involved in the offense and the impoundment for sixty days of the license plates of that vehicle in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4503.233.
  - C. If, within six years of the current offense, the offender has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4510.14 or former division (D)(2) of Ohio R.C. 4507.02 or a municipal ordinance that is substantially equivalent to that section or former division, the court shall order the criminal forfeiture to the State of the vehicle the offender was operating at the time of the offense.
- (2) An order for immobilization and impoundment of a vehicle under this section shall be issued and enforced in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4503.233 and 4507.02, as applicable. The court shall not release a vehicle from immobilization ordered under this section unless the court is presented with current proof of financial responsibility with respect to that vehicle.

- (3) An order for criminal forfeiture of a vehicle under this section shall be issued and enforced under Ohio R.C. 4503.234. Upon receipt of a copy of the order from the court, neither the Registrar of Motor Vehicles nor a Deputy Registrar shall accept any application for the registration or transfer of registration of any motor vehicle owned or leased by the person named in the declaration of forfeiture. The period of registration denial shall be five years after the date of the order unless, during that period, the court having jurisdiction of the offense that led to the order terminates the forfeiture and notifies the Registrar of the termination. The Registrar then shall take the necessary measures to permit the person to register a vehicle owned or leased by the person or to transfer registration of the vehicle. (ORC 4510.161)
- (h) As used in this section:
- (1) "Electronic monitoring" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2929.01.
- (2) "Equivalent offense" means any of the following:
- A. A violation of a municipal ordinance, law of another state, or law of the United States that is substantially equivalent to subsection (a) of this section;
- B. A violation of a former law of this State that was substantially equivalent to subsection (a) of this section.
- (3) "Jail" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 2929.01.
- (4) "Mandatory jail term" means the mandatory term in jail of three, ten, or thirty consecutive days that must be imposed under subsection (b)(1), (2) or (3) of this section upon an offender convicted of a violation of subsection (a) of this section and in relation to which all of the following apply:
- A. Except as specifically authorized under this section, the term must be served in a jail.
- B. Except as specifically authorized under this section, the term cannot be suspended, reduced, or otherwise modified pursuant to any provision of the Ohio Revised Code. (ORC 4510.14)

**335.072 DRIVING UNDER FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY LAW  
SUSPENSION OR CANCELLATION; DRIVING UNDER A  
NONPAYMENT OF JUDGMENT SUSPENSION.**

(a) No person, whose driver's or commercial driver's license or temporary instruction permit or nonresident's operating privilege has been suspended or canceled pursuant to Ohio R.C. Chapter 4509, shall operate any motor vehicle within this Municipality, or knowingly permit any motor vehicle owned by the person to be operated by another person in the Municipality, during the period of the suspension or cancellation, except as specifically authorized by Ohio R.C. Chapter 4509. No person shall operate a motor vehicle within this Municipality, or knowingly permit any motor vehicle owned by the person to be operated by another person in the Municipality, during the period in which the person is required by Ohio R.C. 4509.45 to file and maintain proof of financial responsibility for a violation of Ohio R.C. 4509.101, unless proof of financial responsibility is maintained with respect to that vehicle.

(b) No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking in this Municipality if the person's driver's or commercial driver's license or temporary instruction permit or nonresident operating privilege has been suspended pursuant to Ohio R.C. 4509.37 or 4509.40 for nonpayment of a judgment.

(c) Upon the request or motion of the prosecuting authority, a noncertified copy of the law enforcement automated data system report or a noncertified copy of a record of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles that shows the name, date of birth and social security number of a person charged with a violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section may be admitted into evidence as prima-facie evidence that the license of the person was under either a financial responsibility law suspension at the time of the alleged violation of subsection (a) of this section or a nonpayment of judgment suspension at the time of the alleged violation of subsection (b) of this section. The person charged with a violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section may offer evidence to rebut this prima-facie evidence.

(d) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of driving under financial responsibility law suspension or cancellation and shall be punished as provided in subsection (d) hereof. Whoever violates subsection (b) of this section is guilty of driving under a nonpayment of judgment suspension and shall be punished as provided in subsection (d) hereof.

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d)(2) of this section, the offense is an unclassified misdemeanor. When the offense is an unclassified misdemeanor, the offender shall be sentenced pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.21 to 2929.28, except that the offender shall not be sentenced to a jail term; the offender shall not be sentenced to a community residential sanction pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.26; notwithstanding division (A)(2)(a) of Ohio R.C. 2929.28, the offender may be fined up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000); and, notwithstanding division (A)(3) of Ohio R.C. 2929.27, the offender may be ordered pursuant to division (C) of that section to serve a term of community service of up to five hundred hours. The failure of an offender to complete a term of community service imposed by the court may be punished as indirect criminal contempt under division (A) of Ohio R.C. 2705.02 that may be filed in the underlying case.
- (2) If, within three years of the offense, the offender previously was convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4510.16, or any combination of two violations of Ohio R.C. 4510.16 or Ohio R.C. 4510.11 or 4510.111, or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the offense is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.
- (3) The offender shall provide the court with proof of financial responsibility as defined in Ohio R.C. 4509.01. If the offender fails to provide that proof of financial responsibility, then in addition to any other penalties provided by law, the court may order restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.28 in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender's operation of the vehicle before, during or after committing the offense for which the offender is sentenced under this section. (ORC 4510.16)

(e) No person who has knowingly failed to maintain proof of financial responsibility in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4509.101 shall produce any document or present to a peace officer an electronic wireless communications device that is displaying any text or images with the purpose to mislead a peace officer upon the request of a peace officer for proof of financial responsibility made in accordance with Ohio R.C. 4509.101. Whoever violates this subsection (e) hereof is guilty of falsification, a misdemeanor of the first degree. (ORC 4509.102)

**335.073 DRIVING WITHOUT COMPLYING WITH LICENSE  
REINSTATEMENT REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) No person whose driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, or nonresident's operating privilege has been suspended shall operate any motor vehicle upon a public road or highway or any public or private property after the suspension has expired unless the person has complied with all license reinstatement requirements imposed by the court, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, or another provision of the Ohio Revised Code.

(b) Upon the request or motion of the prosecuting authority, a noncertified copy of the law enforcement automated data system report or a noncertified copy of a record of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles that shows the name, date of birth, and social security number of a person charged with a violation of subsection (a) of this section may be admitted into evidence as prima-facie evidence that the license of the person had not been reinstated by the person at the time of the alleged violation of subsection (a) hereof. The person charged with a violation of subsection (a) hereof may offer evidence to rebut this prima-facie evidence.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of failure to reinstate a license and shall be punished as follows:

- (1) Except as provided in subsection (c)(2) of this section, whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor. When the offense is an unclassified misdemeanor, the offender shall be sentenced pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.21 to 2929.28, except that the offender shall not be sentenced to a jail term; the offender shall not be sentenced to a community residential sanction pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.26; notwithstanding division (A)(2)(a) of Ohio R.C. 2929.28, the offender may be fined up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000); and, notwithstanding division (A)(3) of Ohio R.C. 2929.27, the offender may be ordered pursuant to division (C) of that section to serve a term of community service of up to five hundred hours. The failure of an offender to complete a term of community service imposed by the court may be punished as indirect criminal contempt under division (A) of Ohio R.C. 2705.02 that may be filed in the underlying case.
- (2) If, within three years of a violation of subsection (a) of this section, the offender previously has pleaded guilty to or been convicted of two or more violations of Ohio R.C. 4510.21(A) or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- (3) In all cases, the court may impose upon the offender a class seven suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary driver's license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(7) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02. (ORC 4510.21)

**335.074 DRIVING UNDER LICENSE FORFEITURE OR CHILD SUPPORT  
SUSPENSION.**

(a) No person shall operate any motor vehicle upon a highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking in this Municipality whose driver's or commercial driver's license has been suspended pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2151.354, 2151.87, 2935.27, 3123.58, 4301.99, 4510.032, 4510.22 or 4510.33.

(b) Upon the request or motion of the prosecuting authority, a noncertified copy of the law enforcement automated data system report or a noncertified copy of a record of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles that shows the name, date of birth, and social security number of a person charged with a violation of subsection (a) of this section may be admitted into evidence as prima-facie evidence that the license of the person was under suspension at the time of the alleged



violation of subsection (a) of this section. The person charged with a violation of subsection (a) of this section may offer evidence to rebut this prima-facie evidence.

(c) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of driving under suspension and shall be punished as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c)(2) of this section, the offense is an unclassified misdemeanor. The offender shall be sentenced pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.21 to 2929.28, except that the offender shall not be sentenced to a jail term; the offender shall not be sentenced to a community residential sanction pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.26; notwithstanding division (A)(2)(a) of Ohio R.C. 2929.28, the offender may be fined up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000); and, notwithstanding division (A)(3) of Ohio R.C. 2929.27, the offender may be ordered pursuant to division (C) of that section to serve a term of community service of up to five hundred hours. The failure of an offender to complete a term of community service imposed by the court may be punished as indirect criminal contempt under division (A) of Ohio R.C. 2705.02 that may be filed in the underlying case.
- (2) If, within three years of the offense, the offender previously was convicted of or pleaded guilty to two or more violations of subsection (A) of Ohio R.C. 4510.111, or any combination of two or more violations of subsection (A) of Ohio R.C. 4510.111, or Ohio R.C. 4510.11 or 4510.16, or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, the offense is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree and the offender shall provide the court with proof of financial responsibility as defined in Ohio R.C. 4509.01. If the offender fails to provide that proof of financial responsibility, then in addition to any other penalties provided by law, the court may order restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.28 in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender's operation of the vehicle before, during or after committing the offense for which the offender is sentenced under this section. (ORC 4510.111)

### **335.08 OPERATION OR SALE WITHOUT CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.**

(a) No person shall do any of the following:

- (1) Operate in this Municipality a motor vehicle for which a certificate of title is required without having that certificate in accordance with Ohio R.C. Chapter 4505 or, if a physical certificate of title has not been issued for a motor vehicle, operate the motor vehicle in this Municipality knowing that the ownership information relating to the vehicle has not been entered into the automated title processing system by a clerk of a court of common pleas;
- (2) Display or display for sale or sell as a dealer or acting on behalf of a dealer, a motor vehicle without having obtained a manufacturer's or importer's certificate, a certificate of title, or an assignment of a certificate of title for it as provided in Ohio R.C. Chapter 4505;
- (3) Fail to surrender any certificate of title or any certificate of registration or license plates upon cancellation of the same by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and notice of the cancellation as prescribed in Ohio R.C. Chapter 4505;
- (4) Fail to surrender the certificate of title to a clerk of a court of common pleas as provided in Ohio R.C. Chapter 4505 in case of the destruction or dismantling or change of a motor vehicle in such respect that it is not the motor vehicle described in the certificate of title;
- (5) Violate any rules adopted pursuant to Ohio R.C. Chapter 4505;

- (6) Except as otherwise provided in Ohio R.C. Chapter 4505 and Chapter 4517, sell at wholesale a motor vehicle the ownership of which is not evidenced by an Ohio certificate of title, or the current certificate of title issued for the motor vehicle, or the manufacturer's certificate of origin, and all title assignments that evidence the seller's ownership of the motor vehicle, and an odometer disclosure statement that complies with Ohio R.C. 4505.06 and subchapter IV of the "Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act", 86 Stat. 961 (1972), 15 U.S.C. 1981;
- (7) Operate in this Municipality a motor vehicle knowing that the certificate of title to the vehicle or ownership of the vehicle as otherwise reflected in the automated title processing system has been canceled.

(b) This section does not apply to persons engaged in the business of warehousing or transporting motor vehicles for the purpose of salvage disposition.

(c) Whoever violates this section shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) or imprisoned not more than ninety days, or both. (ORC 4505.18)

### **335.09 DISPLAY OF LICENSE PLATES.**

- (a) (1) No person who is the owner or operator of a motor vehicle shall fail to display in plain view on the front and rear of the motor vehicle a license plate that bears the distinctive number and registration mark assigned to the motor vehicle by the Ohio Director of Public Safety, including any county identification sticker and any validation sticker issued under Ohio R.C. 4503.19 and 4503.191, as follows:
  - A. A manufacturer of motor vehicles or dealer therein, the holder of an in transit permit, and the owner or operator of a motorcycle, motorized bicycle or moped, motor-driven cycle or motor scooter, autocycle, cab-enclosed motorcycle, manufactured home, mobile home, trailer or semitrailer shall display a license plate on the rear only.
  - B. A motor vehicle that is issued two license plates shall display the validation sticker only on the rear license plate, except that a commercial tractor that does not receive an apportioned license plate under the international registration plan shall display the validation sticker on the front of the commercial tractor.
  - C. An apportioned vehicle receiving an apportioned license plate under the international registration plan shall display the license plate only on the front of a commercial tractor and on the rear of all other vehicles.
- (2) All license plates shall be securely fastened so as not to swing, and shall not be covered by any material that obstructs their visibility.
- (3) No person to whom a temporary license placard or windshield sticker has been issued for the use of a motor vehicle under Ohio R.C. 4503.182, and no operator of that motor vehicle, shall fail to display the temporary license placard in plain view from the rear of the vehicle either in the rear window or on an external rear surface of the motor vehicle, or fail to display the windshield sticker in plain view on the rear window of the motor vehicle. No temporary license placard or windshield sticker shall be covered by any material that obstructs its visibility.

(b) A law enforcement officer shall only issue a ticket, citation or summons, or cause the arrest or commence a prosecution, for the failure to display a license plate in plain view on the front of a parked motor vehicle if the officer first determines that another offense has occurred and either places the operator or vehicle owner under arrest or issues a ticket, citation, or summons to the operator or vehicle owner for the other offense.

- (c) (1) Except as provided in subsection (c)(2) of this section, whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
- (2) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section by failing to display a license plate in plain view on the front of a motor vehicle as required under subsection (a) of this section while the motor vehicle is otherwise legally parked is guilty of a minor misdemeanor and may be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00).  
A person who is subject to the penalty prescribed in subsection (c)(2) of this section is not subject to the charging of points under Ohio R.C. 4510.036.
- (3) The offense established under subsection (a) of this section is a strict liability offense and Ohio R.C. 2901.20 does not apply. The designation of this offense as a strict liability offense shall not be construed to imply that any other offense, for which there is no specified degree of culpability, is not a strict liability offense. (ORC 4503.21)

### **335.10 EXPIRED OR UNLAWFUL LICENSE PLATES.**

(a) No person who is the owner of a motor vehicle which is parked or operated upon the public streets or highways shall fail to annually file the application for registration or to pay the tax therefor, as required by Ohio R.C. Chapter 4503. (ORC 4503.11)

(b) No person shall operate, drive or park upon the public streets or highways a motor vehicle acquired from a former owner who has registered the motor vehicle, while the motor vehicle displays the distinctive number or identification mark assigned to it upon its original registration. (ORC 4549.11)

(c) No person who is the owner of a motor vehicle and a resident of Ohio shall operate, drive or park the motor vehicle upon the public streets or highways, while it displays a distinctive number or identification mark issued by or under the authority of another state, without complying with the laws of Ohio relating to the registration and identification of motor vehicles.  
(ORC 4549.12)

(d) No person shall park or operate any vehicle upon any public street or highway upon which is displayed an expired license plate or an expired validation sticker.

(e) No person shall park or operate any vehicle upon any public street or highway upon which are displayed any license plates not legally registered and issued for such vehicle, or upon which are displayed any license plates that were issued on an application for registration that contains any false statement by the applicant.

- (f) (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) hereof is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
- (2) Whoever violates subsection (b) hereof is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense and a misdemeanor of the fourth degree on each subsequent offense.
- (3) Whoever violates any provision of this section for which no other penalty is provided is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4549.11; 4549.12)

**335.11 USE OF ILLEGAL LICENSE PLATES; TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION.**

(a) No person shall operate or drive a motor vehicle upon the streets in this Municipality if it displays a license plate or a distinctive number or identification mark that meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Is fictitious;
- (2) Is a counterfeit or an unlawfully made copy of any distinctive number or identification mark;
- (3) Belongs to another motor vehicle, provided that this section does not apply to a motor vehicle that is operated on the streets in this Municipality when the motor vehicle displays license plates that originally were issued for a motor vehicle that previously was owned by the same person who owns the motor vehicle that is operated on the streets in this Municipality, during the thirty-day period described in subsection (c) hereof.

(b) Whoever violates subsection (a)(1), (2) or (3) of this section is guilty of operating a motor vehicle bearing an invalid license plate or identification mark, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree on a first offense and a misdemeanor of the third degree on each subsequent offense.  
(ORC 4549.08)

(c) Upon the transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle, the registration of the motor vehicle expires, and the original owner shall immediately remove the license plates from the motor vehicle. The transfer of the registration and, where applicable, the license plates from the motor vehicle for which they originally were issued to a succeeding motor vehicle purchased by the same person in whose name the original registration and license plates were issued shall be done within a period not to exceed thirty days. During that thirty-day period, the license plates from the motor vehicle for which they originally were issued may be displayed on the succeeding motor vehicle, and the succeeding motor vehicle may be operated on the streets of the Municipality.

(d) Whoever violates subsection (c) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. (ORC 4503.12)

**335.111 REGISTRATION WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF RESIDENCY.**

(a) Within thirty days of becoming a resident of this State, any person who owns a motor vehicle operated or driven upon the public roads or highways shall register the vehicle in this State. If such a person fails to register a vehicle owned by the person, the person shall not operate any motor vehicle in this Municipality under a license issued by another state.

- (b) (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.
- (2) The offense established under subsection (b)(1) of this section is a strict liability offense and strict liability is a culpable mental state for purposes of Ohio R.C. 2901.20. The designation of this offense as a strict liability offense shall not be construed to imply that any other offense, for which there is no specified degree of culpability, is not a strict liability offense.

(c) For purposes of subsection (a) of this section, "resident" means any person to whom any of the following applies:

- (1) The person maintains their principal residence in this State and does not reside in this State as a result of the person's active service in the United States Armed Forces.
- (2) The person is determined by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to be a resident in accordance with standards adopted by the Registrar under Ohio R.C. 4507.01. (ORC 4503.111)

**335.12 STOPPING AFTER ACCIDENT UPON STREETS; COLLISION WITH UNATTENDED VEHICLE.**

- (a) (1) In the case of a motor vehicle accident or collision with persons or property on a public road or highway, the operator of the motor vehicle, having knowledge of the accident or collision, immediately shall stop the operator's motor vehicle at the scene of the accident or collision. The operator shall remain at the scene of the accident or collision until the operator has given the operator's name and address and, if the operator is not the owner, the name and address of the owner of that motor vehicle, together with the registered number of that motor vehicle, to all of the following:
- A. Any person injured in the accident or collision;
  - B. The operator, occupant, owner or attendant of any motor vehicle damaged in the accident or collision;
  - C. The police officer at the scene of the accident or collision.
- (2) In the event an injured person is unable to comprehend and record the information required to be given under subsection (a)(1) of this section, the other operator involved in the accident or collision shall notify the nearest police authority concerning the location of the accident or collision, and the operator's name, address and the registered number of the motor vehicle the operator was operating. The operator shall remain at the scene of the accident or collision until a police officer arrives, unless removed from the scene by an emergency vehicle operated by a political subdivision or an ambulance.
- (3) If the accident or collision is with an unoccupied or unattended motor vehicle, the operator who collides with the motor vehicle shall securely attach the information required to be given in this section, in writing, to a conspicuous place in or on the unoccupied or unattended motor vehicle.
- (b) (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of failure to stop after an accident. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b)(2) or (3) of this section, failure to stop after an accident is a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- (2) If the accident or collision results in serious physical harm to a person, failure to stop after an accident is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.
- (3) If the accident or collision results in the death of a person, failure to stop after an accident is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.
- (4) In all cases, the court, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, shall impose upon the offender a class five suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(5) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02. No judge shall suspend the first six months of suspension of an offender's license, permit, or privilege required by this subsection.

The offender shall provide the court with proof of financial responsibility as defined in Ohio R.C. 4509.01. If the offender fails to provide that proof of financial responsibility, then, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, the court may order restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.18 or 2929.28 in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender's operation of the motor vehicle before, during or after committing the offense charged under this section. (ORC 4549.02)

**335.13 STOPPING AFTER ACCIDENT UPON PROPERTY OTHER THAN STREET.**

- (a) (1) In the case of a motor vehicle accident or collision resulting in injury or damage to persons or property on any public or private property other than a public road or highway, the operator of the motor vehicle, having knowledge of the accident or collision, shall stop at the scene of the accident or collision. Upon request of any person who is injured or damaged, or any other person, the operator shall give that person the operator's name and address, and, if the operator is not the owner, the name and address of the owner of that motor vehicle, together with the registered number of that motor vehicle, and, if available, exhibit the operator's driver's or commercial driver's license.
- (2) If the operator of the motor vehicle involved in the accident or collision does not provide the information specified in subsection (a)(1) of this section, the operator shall give that information, within twenty-four hours after the accident or collision, to the Police Department.
- (3) If the accident or collision is with an unoccupied or unattended motor vehicle, the operator who collides with the motor vehicle shall securely attach the information required under subsection (a)(1) of this section, in writing, to a conspicuous place in or on the unoccupied or unattended motor vehicle.
- (b) (1) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of failure to stop after a nonpublic road accident. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b)(2) or (3) of this section, failure to stop after a nonpublic road accident is a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- (2) If the accident or collision results in serious physical harm to a person, failure to stop after a nonpublic road accident is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.
- (3) If the accident or collision results in the death of a person, failure to stop after a nonpublic road accident is a felony and shall be prosecuted under appropriate State law.
- (4) In all cases, the court, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, shall impose upon the offender a class five suspension of the offender's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, probationary license, or nonresident operating privilege from the range specified in division (A)(5) of Ohio R.C. 4510.02. No judge shall suspend the first six months of suspension of an offender's license, permit, or privilege required by this subsection.

The offender shall provide the court with proof of financial responsibility as defined in Ohio R.C. 4509.01. If the offender fails to provide that proof of financial responsibility, then, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, the court may order restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.18 or 2929.28 in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender's operation of the motor vehicle before, during or after committing the offense charged under this section. (ORC 4549.021)

**335.14 VEHICLE ACCIDENT RESULTING IN DAMAGE TO REALTY.**

(a) The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in damage to real property, or personal property attached to real property, legally upon or adjacent to a public road or highway immediately shall stop and take reasonable steps to locate and notify the owner or person in charge of the property of that fact, of the driver's name and address, and of the registration number of the vehicle the driver is driving and, upon request and if available, shall exhibit the driver's or commercial driver's license.

If the owner or person in charge of the property cannot be located after reasonable search, the driver of the vehicle involved in the accident resulting in damage to the property, within twenty-four hours after the accident, shall forward to the police authority in the municipality in which the accident or collision occurred, the same information required to be given to the owner or person in control of the property and give the location of the accident and a description of the damage insofar as it is known.

(b) Whoever violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of failure to stop after an accident involving the property of others, a misdemeanor of the first degree.

The offender shall provide the court with proof of financial responsibility as defined in Ohio R.C. 4509.01. If the offender fails to provide that proof of financial responsibility, then, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, the court may order restitution pursuant to Ohio R.C. 2929.28 in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for any economic loss arising from an accident or collision that was the direct and proximate result of the offender's operation of the motor vehicle before, during or after committing the offense charged under this section. (ORC 4549.03)





**CHAPTER 337**  
**Safety and Equipment**

- |        |  |         |  |
|--------|--|---------|--|
| 337.01 | Driving unsafe vehicles.   | 337.17  | Focus and aim of headlights.   |
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| 337.14 | Use of headlight beams.  | 337.28  | Use of sunscreening, nontransparent and reflectorized materials.                     |
| 337.15 | Lights of less intensity on slow-moving vehicles.                          | 337.29  | Bumper heights.  |
| 337.16 | Number of lights; limitations on flashing, oscillating or rotating lights. | 337.30  | Inspection by police officer.  |
|        |  | 337.31  | Directional signals required.  |
|        |  | 337.99  | Penalty.   |

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Warning devices for commercial vehicles disabled upon freeways -  
     see Ohio R.C. 4513.28  
 Slow moving vehicle emblem - see OAC Ch. 4501.13  
 Motorized bicycle lights and equipment - see Ohio R.C. 4511.521  
 Vehicle lighting - see OAC 4501-15  
 Use of stop and turn signals - see TRAF. 331.14  
 Wheel protectors for commercial vehicles - see TRAF. 339.05  
 Vehicles transporting explosives - see TRAF. 339.06  
 Towing requirements - see TRAF. 339.07  
 Use of studded tires and chains - see TRAF. 339.11  
 Bicycle equipment - see TRAF. 373.05 et seq.

**337.01 DRIVING UNSAFE VEHICLES.**

(a) No person shall drive or move, or cause or knowingly permit to be driven or moved, on any street any vehicle or combination of vehicles which is in such unsafe condition as to endanger any person or property.

(b) Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit the use of additional parts and accessories on any vehicle not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter.

(c) The provisions of this chapter with respect to equipment on vehicles do not apply to implements of husbandry, road machinery, road rollers or agricultural tractors except as made applicable to such articles of machinery. (ORC 4513.02)

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.99)

**337.02 LIGHTED LIGHTS; MEASUREMENT OF DISTANCES AND HEIGHTS.**

(a) Every vehicle, other than a motorized bicycle, operated upon a street or highway shall display lighted lights and illuminating devices as required by this chapter during all of the following times:

- (1) The time from sunset to sunrise;
- (2) At any other time when, due to insufficient natural light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons, vehicles, and substantial objects on the street or highway are not discernible at a distance of one thousand feet ahead;
- (3) At any time when the windshield wipers of the vehicle are in use because of precipitation on the windshield.

Every motorized bicycle shall display at such times lighted lights meeting the rules adopted by the Ohio Director of Public Safety under Ohio R.C. 4511.521. No motor vehicle, during any time specified in this section, shall be operated upon a street or highway using only parking lights as illumination.

(b) Whenever in this chapter a requirement is declared as to the distance from which certain lights and devices shall render objects visible, or within which such lights or devices shall be visible, such distance shall be measured upon a straight level unlighted street under normal atmospheric conditions unless a different condition is expressly stated.

(c) Whenever in this chapter a requirement is declared as to the mounted height of lights or devices, it shall mean from the center of such light or device to the level ground upon which the vehicle stands.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no law enforcement officer shall cause the operator of a vehicle being operated upon a street or highway to stop the vehicle solely because the officer observes that a violation of subsection (a)(3) of this section has been or is being committed or for the sole purpose of issuing a ticket, citation or summons for a violation of that subsection, or causing the arrest of or commencing a prosecution of a person for a violation of that subsection.

(e) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.03)

**337.03 HEADLIGHTS ON MOTOR VEHICLES AND MOTORCYCLES.**

(a) Every motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, shall be equipped with at least two headlights with at least one near each side of the front of the motor vehicle.

(b) Every motorcycle shall be equipped with at least one and not more than two headlights.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.04)

**337.04 TAIL LIGHT; ILLUMINATION OF REAR LICENSE PLATE.**

(a) Every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer or vehicle which is being drawn at the end of a train of vehicles shall be equipped with at least one tail light mounted on the rear which, when lighted, shall emit a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear, provided that in the case of a train of vehicles only the tail light on the rear-most vehicle need be visible from the distance specified.

(b) Either a tail light or a separate light shall be so constructed and placed as to illuminate with a white light the rear registration plate, when such registration plate is required, and render it legible from a distance of fifty feet to the rear. Any tail light, together with any separate light for illuminating the rear registration plate, shall be so wired as to be lighted whenever the headlights or auxiliary driving lights are lighted, except where separate lighting systems are provided for trailers for the purpose of illuminating such registration plate.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.05)

**337.05 REAR RED REFLECTORS.**

(a) Every new motor vehicle sold after September 6, 1941, and operated on a street, other than vehicles of the type mentioned in Section 337.06 or a commercial tractor to which a trailer or semitrailer is attached, shall carry at the rear, either as a part of the tail lights or separately, two red reflectors of such size and characteristics and so maintained as to be visible at night from all distances within 300 feet to fifty feet from such vehicle.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.06)

**337.06 SAFETY LIGHTING ON COMMERCIAL VEHICLES.**

(a) Buses, trucks, commercial tractors, trailers, semitrailers and pole trailers, when operated upon any street, shall be equipped with clearance lights, marker lights, reflectors and stop lights as required by State regulations. Such equipment shall be lighted at all times mentioned in Section 337.02 except that clearance lights and side marker lights need not be lighted on a vehicle operated where there is sufficient light to reveal any person or substantial object on the street at a distance of 500 feet.

Such equipment shall be in addition to all other lights specifically required by Section 337.02 to Section 337.15, inclusive. Vehicles operated under the jurisdiction of the Ohio Public Utilities Commission are not subject to this section.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.07)

**337.07 OBSCURED LIGHTS ON VEHICLES IN COMBINATION.**

(a) Whenever motor and other vehicles are operated in combination during the time that lights are required, any light, except tail lights, which by reason of its location on a vehicle of the combination would be obscured by another vehicle of the combination need not be lighted, but this section does not affect the requirement that lighted clearance lights be displayed on the front of the foremost vehicle required to have clearance lights or that all lights required on the rear of the rearmost vehicle of any combination shall be lighted.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.  
(ORC 4513.08)

**337.08 RED LIGHT OR RED FLAG ON EXTENDED LOADS.**

(a) Whenever the load upon any vehicle extends to the rear four feet or more beyond the bed or body of such vehicle, there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of the load, at the times specified in Section 337.02, a red light or lantern plainly visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the side and rear. The red light or lantern required by this section is in addition to the red rear light required upon every vehicle. At any other time there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of such load a red flag or cloth not less than sixteen inches square.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.09)

**337.09 LIGHTS ON PARKED OR STOPPED VEHICLES.**

(a) Except in case of an emergency, whenever a vehicle is parked or stopped upon a roadway open to traffic or shoulder adjacent thereto, whether attended or unattended during the times mentioned in Section 337.02, such vehicle shall be equipped with one or more lights which shall exhibit a white or amber light on the roadway side visible from a distance of 500 feet to the front of such vehicle, and a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear. No lights need be displayed upon any such vehicle when it is stopped or parked where there is sufficient light to reveal any person or substantial object within a distance of 500 feet upon such street. Any lighted headlights upon a parked vehicle shall be depressed or dimmed.  
(ORC 4513.10)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.99)

**337.10 LIGHTS ON SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES; EMBLEM REQUIRED.**

(a) All vehicles other than bicycles, including animal-drawn vehicles and vehicles referred to in Section 337.01(c), not specifically required to be equipped with lights or other lighting devices by Section 337.02 to 337.09, shall at all times specified in Section 337.02, be equipped with at least one light displaying a white light visible from a distance of not less than 1,000 feet to the front of the vehicle, and also shall be equipped with two lights displaying red light visible from a distance of not less than 1,000 feet to the rear of the vehicle, or as an alternative, one light displaying a red light visible from a distance of not less than 1,000 feet to the rear and two red reflectors visible from all distances of 600 feet to 100 feet to the rear when illuminated by the lawful lower beams of headlights.

Lights and reflectors required or authorized by this section shall meet standards adopted by the Ohio Director of Public Safety.

(b) All boat trailers, farm machinery and other machinery, including all road construction machinery, upon a street or highway, except when being used in actual construction and maintenance work in an area guarded by a flagperson, or where flares are used, or when operating or traveling within the limits of a construction area designated by the Ohio Director of Transportation, or the Municipal or County Engineer, when such construction area is marked in accordance with requirements of the Director and the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, as set forth in Ohio R.C. 4511.09, which is designed for operation at a speed of twenty-five miles per hour or less shall be operated at a speed not exceeding twenty-five miles per hour, and shall display a triangular slow-moving vehicle emblem (SMV). The emblem shall be mounted so as to be visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear. The Ohio Director of Public Safety shall adopt standards and specifications for the design and position of mounting the SMV emblem. The standards and specifications for SMV emblems referred to in this section shall correlate with and, so far as possible, conform with those approved by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

A unit of farm machinery that is designed by its manufacturer to operate at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour may be operated on a street or highway at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour provided it is operated in accordance with this section.

As used in this subsection (b), "machinery" does not include any vehicle designed to be drawn by an animal.

(c) The use of the SMV emblem shall be restricted to animal-drawn vehicles, and to the slow-moving vehicles specified in subsection (b) hereof operating or traveling within the limits of the highway. Its use on slow-moving vehicles being transported upon other types of vehicles or on any other type of vehicle or stationary object on the highway is prohibited.

- (d) (1) No person shall sell, lease, rent or operate any boat trailer, farm machinery or other machinery defined as a slow-moving vehicle in subsection (b) hereof, except those units designed to be completely mounted on a primary power unit, which is manufactured or assembled on or after April 1, 1966, unless the vehicle is equipped with a slow-moving vehicle emblem mounting device as specified in subsection (b) hereof.
- (2) No person shall sell, lease, rent, or operate on a street or highway any unit of farm machinery that is designed by its manufacturer to operate at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour unless the unit displays a slow-moving vehicle emblem as specified in subsection (b) of this section and a speed identification symbol that meets the specifications contained in the American Society of Agricultural Engineers Standard ANSI/SAE S584 JAN2005, agricultural equipment; speed identification symbol (SIS).

(e) Any boat trailer, farm machinery, or other machinery defined as a slow-moving vehicle in subsection (b) of this section, in addition to the use of the slow-moving vehicle emblem, and any unit of farm machinery that is designed by its manufacturer to operate at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour, in addition to the display of a speed identification symbol may be equipped with a red flashing light that shall be visible from a distance of not less than one thousand feet to the rear at all times specified in Section 337.02. When a double-faced light is used, it shall display amber light to the front and red light to the rear.

In addition to the lights described in this subsection, farm machinery and motor vehicles escorting farm machinery may display a flashing, oscillating or rotating amber light, as permitted by Section 337.16, and also may display simultaneously flashing turn signals or warning lights, as permitted by that section.

(f) Every animal-drawn vehicle upon a street or highway shall at all times be equipped in one of the following ways:

- (1) With a slow-moving vehicle emblem complying with subsection (b) hereof;
- (2) With alternate reflective material complying with rules adopted under this subsection (f);
- (3) With both a slow-moving vehicle emblem and alternate reflective material as specified in this subsection (f).

The Ohio Director of Public Safety, subject to Ohio R.C. Chapter 119, shall adopt rules establishing standards and specifications for the position of mounting of the alternate reflective material authorized by this subsection (f). The rules shall permit, as a minimum, the alternate reflective material to be black, gray or silver in color. The alternate reflective material shall be mounted on the animal-drawn vehicle so as to be visible at all times specified in Section 337.02, from a distance of not less than 500 feet to the rear when illuminated by the lawful lower beams of headlamps.

(g) Every unit of farm machinery that is designed by its manufacturer to operate at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour shall display a slow-moving vehicle emblem and a speed identification symbol that meets the specifications contained in the American Society of Agricultural Engineers Standard ANSI/SAE S584 JAN2005, agricultural equipment; speed identification symbol (SIS) when the unit is operated upon a street or highway, irrespective of the speed at which the unit is operated on the street or highway. The speed identification symbol shall indicate the maximum speed in miles per hour at which the unit of farm machinery is designed by its manufacturer to operate. The display of the speed identification symbol shall be in accordance with the standard prescribed in this subsection.

If an agricultural tractor that is designed by its manufacturer to operate at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour is being operated on a street or highway at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour and is towing, pulling or otherwise drawing a unit of farm machinery, the unit of farm machinery shall display a slow-moving vehicle emblem and a speed identification symbol that is the same as the speed identification symbol that is displayed on the agricultural tractor.

(h) When an agricultural tractor that is designed by its manufacturer to operate at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour is being operated on a street or highway at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour, the operator shall possess some documentation published or provided by the manufacturer indicating the maximum speed in miles per hour at which the manufacturer designed the agricultural tractor to operate.

(i) As used in this section, "boat trailer" means any vehicle designed and used exclusively to transport a boat between a place of storage and a marina, or in and around a marina, when drawn or towed on a street or highway for a distance of no more than ten miles and at a speed of twenty-five miles per hour or less.

(j) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.11)

### **337.11 SPOTLIGHT AND AUXILIARY LIGHTS.**

(a) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than one spotlight and every lighted spotlight shall be so aimed and used upon approaching another vehicle that no part of the high-intensity portion of the beam will be directed to the left of the prolongation of the extreme left side of the vehicle, nor more than 100 feet ahead of the vehicle.

(b) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than three State approved auxiliary driving lights mounted on the front of the vehicle, which when used shall conform to State regulations.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.12)

**337.12 COWL, FENDER AND BACK-UP LIGHTS.**

(a) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with side cowl or fender lights or lights on each side thereof which shall emit a white or amber light without glare.

(b) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with back-up lights, either separately or in combination with another light. No back-up lights shall be continuously lighted when the motor vehicle is in forward motion.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.13)

**337.13 DISPLAY OF LIGHTED LIGHTS.**

(a) At all times mentioned in Section 337.02 at least two State approved lighted lights shall be displayed conforming to State regulations, one near each side of the front of every motor vehicle, except when such vehicle is parked subject to the regulations governing lights on parked vehicles. (ORC 4513.14)

(b) However, on a motorcycle, there shall be displayed at least one and not more than two lighted lights as required herein.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.14)

**337.14 USE OF HEADLIGHT BEAMS.**

(a) Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway or shoulder adjacent thereto during the times specified in Section 337.02, the driver shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons, vehicles and substantial objects at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle, except that upon approaching an oncoming vehicle, the lights or beams shall be so aimed that the glaring rays are not projected into the eyes of the oncoming driver.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.15)

**337.15 LIGHTS OF LESS INTENSITY ON SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES.**

(a) Any motor vehicle may be operated under the conditions specified in Section 337.02 when it is equipped with two lighted lights upon the front thereof capable of revealing persons and substantial objects seventy-five feet ahead in lieu of lights required in Section 337.13, provided that such vehicle shall not be operated at a speed in excess of twenty miles per hour.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.16)



**337.16 NUMBER OF LIGHTS; LIMITATIONS ON FLASHING, OSCILLATING OR ROTATING LIGHTS.**

(a) Whenever a motor vehicle equipped with headlights also is equipped with any auxiliary lights or spotlight or any other light on the front thereof projecting a beam of an intensity greater than 300 candle power, not more than a total of five of any such lights on the front of a vehicle shall be lighted at any one time when the vehicle is upon a highway.

(b) Any lighted light or illuminating device upon a motor vehicle, other than headlights, spotlights, signal lights or auxiliary driving lights, that projects a beam of light of an intensity greater than 300 candle power, shall be so directed that no part of the beam will strike the level of the roadway on which the vehicle stands at a distance of more than seventy-five feet from the vehicle.

- (c) (1) Flashing lights are prohibited on motor vehicles, except as a means for indicating a right or a left turn, or in the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, or overtaking or passing. This prohibition does not apply to emergency vehicles, road service vehicles servicing or towing a disabled vehicle, stationary waste collection vehicles actively collecting garbage, refuse, trash or recyclable materials on the roadside, rural mail delivery vehicles, vehicles transporting preschool children as provided in Ohio R.C. 4513.182, highway maintenance vehicles, funeral hearses, funeral escort vehicles and similar equipment operated by the Department or local authorities, which shall be equipped with and display, when used on a street or highway for the special purpose necessitating such lights, a flashing, oscillating or rotating amber light, but shall not display a flashing, oscillating or rotating light of any other color, nor to vehicles or machinery permitted by Section 337.10 to have a flashing red light.
- (2) When used on a street or highway, farm machinery and vehicles escorting farm machinery may be equipped with and display a flashing, oscillating, or rotating amber light, and the prohibition contained in subsection (c)(1) hereof does not apply to such machinery or vehicles. Farm machinery also may display the lights described in Section 337.10.

(d) Except a person operating a public safety vehicle, as defined in Section 301.27, or a school bus, no person shall operate, move or park upon or permit to stand within the right of way of any public street or highway any vehicle or equipment that is equipped with and displaying a flashing red or a flashing combination red and white light, or an oscillating or rotating red light, or a combination red and white oscillating or rotating light; and except a public law enforcement officer, or other person sworn to enforce the criminal and traffic laws of the State or Municipality, operating a public safety vehicle when on duty, no person shall operate, move or park upon, or permit to stand within the right of way of any street or highway any vehicle or equipment that is equipped with, or upon which is mounted, and displaying a flashing blue or a flashing combination blue and white light, or an oscillating or rotating blue light, or a combination blue and white oscillating or rotating light.

(e) This section does not prohibit the use of warning lights required by law or the simultaneous flashing of turn signals on disabled vehicles or on vehicles being operated in unfavorable atmospheric conditions in order to enhance their visibility. This section also does not prohibit the simultaneous flashing of turn signals or warning lights either on farm machinery or vehicles escorting farm machinery, when used on a street or highway.

(f) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.17)

### **337.17 FOCUS AND AIM OF HEADLIGHTS.**

(a) No person shall use any lights mentioned in Section 337.02 to 337.16, inclusive, upon any motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer unless the lights are equipped, mounted and adjusted as to focus and aim in accordance with State regulations.

(b) The headlights on any motor vehicle shall comply with the headlamp color requirements contained in federal motor vehicle safety standard number 108, 49 C.F.R. 571.108. No person shall operate a motor vehicle in violation of this subsection.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.19)

### **337.171 LIGHTS ON SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT AND OVERSIZE VEHICLES.**

(a) It is unlawful to operate snow removal equipment or oversize vehicles on a highway unless the lights thereon comply with and are lighted when and as required by the standards and specifications adopted by the State Director of Transportation.

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

### **337.172 LIGHTS AND SIGNS ON VEHICLE TRANSPORTING PRESCHOOL CHILDREN TO AND FROM INSTITUTION.**

(a) No person shall operate any motor vehicle (which is owned, leased or hired by a nursery school, kindergarten or day care center) while transporting preschool children to or from such an institution unless the vehicle is equipped with and displays two amber flashing lights mounted on a bar attached to the top of the vehicle and a sign bearing the designation, "Caution - Children." That sign shall be attached to the bar carrying the amber flashing lights in such a manner as to be legible to persons both in front of and behind the vehicle. The lights and signs shall meet standards and specifications adopted by the State Director of Public Safety.

(b) No person shall operate a motor vehicle displaying the lights and signs required by this section for any purpose other than the transportation of preschool children to or from such an institution.

(c) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**337.18 MOTOR VEHICLE AND MOTORCYCLE BRAKES.**

- (a) The following requirements govern as to brake equipment on vehicles:
- (1) Every motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, when operated upon a street or highway, shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and hold such motor vehicle, including two separate means of applying the brakes, each of which means shall be effective to apply the brakes to at least two wheels. If these two separate means of applying the brakes are connected in any way, then on such motor vehicles manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1942, they shall be so constructed that failure of any one part of the operating mechanism shall not leave the motor vehicle without brakes on at least two wheels.
  - (2) Every motorcycle, when operated upon a street or highway, shall be equipped with at least one adequate brake, which may be operated by hand or by foot.
  - (3) Every motorized bicycle shall be equipped with brakes meeting the rules adopted by the Ohio Director of Public Safety under Ohio R.C. 4511.521.
  - (4) When operated upon the streets or highways of this Municipality, the following vehicles shall be equipped with brakes adequate to control the movement of and to stop and to hold the vehicle designed to be applied by the driver of the towing motor vehicle from its cab, and also designed and connected so that, in case of a breakaway of the towed vehicle, the brakes shall be automatically applied:
    - A. Except as otherwise provided in this section, every trailer or semitrailer, except a pole trailer, with an empty weight of two thousand pounds or more, manufactured or assembled on or after January 1, 1942;
    - B. Every manufactured home or travel trailer with an empty weight of two thousand pounds or more, manufactured or assembled on or after January 1, 2001.
  - (5) Every watercraft trailer with a gross weight or manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of three thousand pounds or more that is manufactured or assembled on or after January 1, 2008, shall have separate brakes equipped with hydraulic surge or electrically operated brakes on two wheels.
  - (6) In any combination of motor-drawn trailers or semitrailers equipped with brakes, means shall be provided for applying the rearmost brakes in approximate synchronism with the brakes on the towing vehicle, and developing the required braking effort on the rearmost wheels at the fastest rate; or means shall be provided for applying braking effort first on the rearmost brakes; or both of the above means, capable of being used alternatively, may be employed.

- (7) Every vehicle and combination of vehicles, except motorcycles and motorized bicycles, and except trailers and semitrailers of a gross weight of less than 2,000 pounds, and pole trailers, shall be equipped with parking brakes adequate to hold the vehicle on any grade on which it is operated, under all conditions of loading, on a surface free from snow, ice or loose material. The parking brakes shall be capable of being applied in conformance with the foregoing requirements by the driver's muscular effort or by spring action or by equivalent means. Their operation may be assisted by the service brakes or other sources of power provided that failure of the service brake actuation system or other power assisting mechanism will not prevent the parking brakes from being applied in conformance with the foregoing requirements. The parking brakes shall be so designed that when once applied they shall remain applied with the required effectiveness despite exhaustion of any source of energy or leakage of any kind.
- (8) The same brake drums, brake shoes and lining assemblies, brake shoe anchors, and mechanical brake shoe actuation mechanism normally associated with the wheel brake assemblies may be used for both the service brakes and the parking brakes. If the means of applying the parking brakes and the service brakes are connected in any way, they shall be so constructed that failure of any one part shall not leave the vehicle without operative brakes.
- (9) Every motor vehicle or combination of motor-drawn vehicles shall be capable at all times and under all conditions of loading of being stopped on a dry, smooth, level road free from loose material, upon application of the service or foot brake, within the following specified distances, or shall be capable of being decelerated at a sustained rate corresponding to these distances:

	<u>From a speed of 20 miles per hour</u>	
	Stopping distance	Deceleration in
	in feet	feet per second
		<u>per second</u>
Brakes on all wheels	30	14
Brakes not on all four wheels	40	10.7

- (10) All brakes shall be maintained in good working order and shall be so adjusted as to operate as equally as practicable with respect to the wheels on opposite sides of the vehicle.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 4513.99)

**337.19 HORN, SIREN AND THEFT ALARM SIGNAL.**

(a) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a street shall be equipped with a horn which is in good working order and capable of emitting sound audible, under normal conditions, from a distance of not less than 200 feet.

(b) No motor vehicle shall be equipped with, nor shall any person use upon a vehicle, any siren, whistle or bell. Any vehicle may be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which shall be so arranged that it cannot be used as an ordinary warning signal. Every emergency or public safety vehicle shall be equipped with a siren, whistle or bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 500 feet and of a type approved by the Ohio Director of Public Safety. Such equipment shall not be used except when such vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call or is in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, in which case the driver of the emergency or public safety vehicle shall sound such equipment when it is necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the approach thereof.

(c) No person shall use the horn of a motor vehicle except to give warning to other drivers or pedestrians.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 4513.21)

**337.20 MUFFLER; MUFFLER CUTOUT; EXCESSIVE SMOKE, GAS OR NOISE.**

(a) Every motor vehicle and motorcycle with an internal combustion engine shall at all times be equipped with a muffler which is in good working order and in constant operation to prevent excessive or unusual noise, and no person shall use a muffler cutout, by-pass or similar device upon a motor vehicle on a highway. Every motorcycle muffler shall be equipped with baffle plates.

(b) No person shall own, operate or have in the person's possession any motor vehicle or motorcycle equipped with a device for producing excessive smoke or gas, or so equipped as to permit oil or any other chemical to flow into or upon the exhaust pipe or muffler of such vehicle, or equipped in any other way to produce or emit smoke or dangerous or annoying gases from any portion of such vehicle, other than the ordinary gases emitted by the exhaust of an internal combustion engine under normal operation.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 4513.22)

**337.21 REAR-VIEW MIRROR; CLEAR VIEW TO FRONT, BOTH SIDES AND REAR.**

(a) Every motor vehicle and motorcycle shall be equipped with a mirror so located as to reflect to the operator a view of the street to the rear of such vehicle or motorcycle. Operators of vehicles and motorcycles shall have a clear and unobstructed view to the front and to both sides of their vehicles or motorcycles and shall have a clear view to the rear of their vehicles or motorcycles by mirror.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 4513.23)

**337.22 WINDSHIELD AND WINDSHIELD WIPER; SIGN OR POSTER THEREON.**

- (a) No person shall drive any motor vehicle on a street or highway, other than a motorcycle or motorized bicycle, that is not equipped with a windshield.
- (b) (1) No person shall drive any motor vehicle, other than a bus, with any sign, poster or other nontransparent material upon the front windshield, sidewings, side or rear windows of such vehicle other than a certificate or other paper required to be displayed by law, except that there may be in the lower left-hand or right-hand corner of the windshield a sign, poster or decal not to exceed four inches in height by six inches in width. No sign, poster or decal shall be displayed in the front windshield in such a manner as to conceal the vehicle identification number for the motor vehicle when in accordance with federal law, that number is located inside the vehicle passenger compartment and so placed as to be readable through the vehicle glazing without moving any part of the vehicle.
- (2) Subsection (b)(1) of this section does not apply to a person who is driving a passenger car with an electronic device, including an antenna, electronic tolling or other transponder, camera, directional navigation device, or other similar electronic device located in the front windshield if the device meets both of the following:
- A. It does not restrict the vehicle operator's sight lines to the road and highway signs and signals.
  - B. It does not conceal the vehicle identification number.
- (3) Subsection (b)(1) of this section does not apply to a person who is driving a commercial car with an electronic device, including an antenna, electronic tolling or other transponder, camera, directional navigation device, or other similar electronic device located in the front windshield if the device meets both of the following:
- A. It does not restrict the vehicle operator's sight lines to the road and highway signs and signals.
  - B. It is mounted not more than six inches below the upper edge of the windshield and is outside the area swept by the vehicle's windshield wipers.
- (c) The windshield on every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a device for cleaning rain, snow or other moisture from the windshield. The device shall be maintained in good working order and so constructed as to be controlled or operated by the operator of the vehicle.
- (d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.24)

**337.23 LIMITED LOAD EXTENSION ON LEFT SIDE OF PASSENGER VEHICLE.**

- (a) No passenger-type vehicle shall be operated on a street with any load carried on such vehicle which extends more than six inches beyond the line of the fenders on the vehicle's left side. (ORC 4513.30)
- (b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.99)

**337.24 MOTOR VEHICLE STOP LIGHTS.**

(a) Every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer when operated upon a street or highway shall be equipped with two or more stop lights, except that passenger cars manufactured or assembled prior to January 1, 1967, motorcycles, and motor-driven cycles shall be equipped with at least one stop light. Stop lights shall be mounted on the rear of the vehicle, actuated upon application of the service brake, and may be incorporated with other rear lights. Such stop lights when actuated shall emit a red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear, provided that in the case of a train of vehicles only the stop lights on the rear-most vehicle need be visible from the distance specified.

Such stop lights when actuated shall give a steady warning light to the rear of a vehicle or train of vehicles to indicate the intention of the operator to diminish the speed of or stop a vehicle or train of vehicles.

When stop lights are used as required by this section, they shall be constructed or installed so as to provide adequate and reliable illumination and shall conform to the appropriate rules and regulations established under Ohio R.C. 4513.19.

Historical motor vehicles as defined in Ohio R.C. 4503.181, not originally manufactured with stop lights, are not subject to this section.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.071)

**337.25 AIR CLEANER REQUIRED.**

(a) No person shall operate a motor vehicle with an internal combustion engine unless the carburetion system of the vehicle is protected with an air filter, a flame arresting device, or any other accepted method of protection that is adequate for this purpose. If the original device or system is replaced, it shall be replaced with one that is equal to or better than the original equipment.

(b) This section does not apply to a person doing automotive repair work on a motor vehicle that necessitates this device being removed while the work is performed.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**337.26 CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM USAGE.**

(a) When any child who is in either or both of the following categories is being transported in a motor vehicle, other than a taxicab or public safety vehicle as defined in Ohio R.C. 4511.01, that is required by the United States Department of Transportation to be equipped with seat belts at the time of manufacture or assembly, the operator of the motor vehicle shall have the child properly secured in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in a child restraint system that meets federal motor safety standards:

- (1) A child who is less than four years of age;
- (2) A child who weighs less than forty pounds.

(b) When any child who is in either or both of the following categories is being transported in a motor vehicle, other than a taxicab, that is owned, leased or otherwise under the control of a nursery school, or day-care center, the operator of the motor vehicle shall have the child properly secured in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in a child restraint system that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards:

- (1) A child who is less than four years of age;
- (2) A child who weighs less than forty pounds.

(c) When any child who is less than eight years of age and less than four feet nine inches in height, who is not required by subsection (a) or (b) of this section to be secured in a child restraint system, is being transported in a motor vehicle, other than a taxicab or public safety vehicle as defined in Ohio R.C. 4511.01 or a vehicle that is regulated under Ohio R.C. 5104.011, that is required by the United States Department of Transportation to be equipped with seat belts at the time of manufacture or assembly, the operator of the motor vehicle shall have the child properly secured in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions on a booster seat that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards.

(d) When any child who is at least eight years of age but not older than fifteen years of age and who is not otherwise required by subsection (a), (b) or (c) hereof to be secured in a child restraint system or booster seat, is being transported in a motor vehicle, other than a taxicab or public safety vehicle as defined in Ohio R.C. 4511.01, that is required by the United States Department of Transportation to be equipped with seat belts at the time of manufacture or assembly, the operator of the motor vehicle shall have the child properly restrained either in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in a child restraint system that meets federal motor vehicle safety standards or in an occupant restraining device as defined in Ohio R.C. 4513.263.

(e) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no law enforcement officer shall cause an operator of a motor vehicle being operated on any street or highway to stop the motor vehicle for the sole purpose of determining whether a violation of subsection (c) or (d) of this section has been or is being committed or for the sole purpose of issuing a ticket, citation, or summons for a violation of subsection (c) or (d) of this section or causing the arrest of or commencing a prosecution of a person for a violation of subsection (c) or (d) of this section, and absent another violation of law, a law enforcement officer's view of the interior or visual inspection of a motor vehicle being operated on any street or highway may not be used for the purpose of determining whether a violation of subsection (c) or (d) of this section has been or is being committed.



(f) The Ohio Director of Public Safety shall adopt such rules as are necessary to carry out this section.

(g) The failure of an operator of a motor vehicle to secure a child in a child restraint system, a booster seat or an occupant restraining device as required by this section is not negligence imputable to the child, is not admissible as evidence in any civil action involving the rights of the child against any other person allegedly liable for injuries to the child, is not to be used as a basis for a criminal prosecution of the operator of the motor vehicle other than a prosecution for a violation of this section, and is not admissible as evidence in any criminal action involving the operator of the motor vehicle other than a prosecution for a violation of this section.

(h) This section does not apply when an emergency exists that threatens the life of any person operating or occupying a motor vehicle that is being used to transport a child who otherwise would be required to be restrained under this section. This section does not apply to a person operating a motor vehicle who has an affidavit signed by a physician licensed to practice in this State under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4731 or a chiropractor licensed to practice in this State under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4734 that states that the child who otherwise would be required to be restrained under this section has a physical impairment that makes use of a child restraint system, booster seat or an occupant restraining device impossible or impractical, provided that the person operating the vehicle has safely and appropriately restrained the child in accordance with any recommendations of the physician or chiropractor as noted on the affidavit.

(i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any person to carry with the person the birth certificate of a child to prove the age of the child, but the production of a valid birth certificate for a child showing that the child was not of an age to which this section applies is a defense against any ticket, citation or summons issued for violating this section.

(j) Whoever violates subsection (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this section shall be punished as follows, provided that the failure of an operator of a motor vehicle to secure more than one child in a child restraint system, booster seat, or occupant restraining device as required by this section that occurred at the same time, on the same day, and at the same location is deemed to be a single violation of this section:

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (j)(2) of this section, the offender is guilty of a minor misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than seventy-five dollars (\$75.00).
- (2) If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of subsection (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this section or of a state law or municipal ordinance that is substantially similar to any of those subsections, the offender is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. (ORC 4511.81)

### **337.27 CERTAIN RADIO RECEIVING SETS PROHIBITED.**

(a) Except on written permission of the City Manager based on public necessity or safety, and subject to any conditions which are part of that permission, no person shall equip, own, maintain or operate any motor vehicle in the City with radio receiving sets for the purpose of receiving police and fire signals of the City.

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**337.28 USE OF SUNSCREENING, NONTRANSPARENT AND REFLECTORIZED MATERIALS.****(a) Requirements.**

- (1) No person shall operate, on any highway or other public or private property open to the public for vehicular travel or parking, lease, or rent any motor vehicle that is required to be registered in this State with any suncreening material, or other product or material which has the effect of making the windshield or windows nontransparent or would alter the windows' color, increase its reflectivity, or reduce its light transmittance, unless the product or material satisfies one of the following exceptions:
  - A. Any manufacturer's tinting or glazing of motor vehicle windows or windshields that is otherwise in compliance with or permitted by "Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Number 205" (FMVSS 205) in effect at the time of the manufacture of the motor vehicle until such standard is subsequently repealed or reduced. In "Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Number 205" (FMVSS 205) "manufacturer" means any person engaged in the manufacturing or assembling of motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment, including any person importing motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment for resale. "Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Number 205" (FMVSS), Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Part 571, can be obtained online at web site <http://www.gpo.gov>.
  - B. Any sunscreening material or other product or material applied to the windshield when used in conjunction with the safety glazing materials of such window, has a light transmittance of not less than seventy per cent plus or minus three per cent and is not red or yellow in color.
  - C. Any sunscreening material or other product or material applied to the side windows to the immediate right or left the driver, so long as such material, when used in conjunction with the safety glazing materials of such windows, has a light transmittance of not less than fifty per cent plus or minus three per cent and is not red or yellow in color.
  - D. Any sunscreening material or other product or material applied to a window not otherwise listed in subsections (a)(1)A. to C. or E. of this section, except that outside left and right rear view mirrors are required if the sunscreening material is applied to the rear window and the sunscreening material, when used in conjunction with the safety glazing material of such window, has a light transmittance of less than fifty per cent plus or minus three per cent.
  - E. Any sunscreening material or other product or material applied along the top of the windshield and that does not extend downward beyond the AS-1 line or five inches from the top of the windshield, whichever is closer to the top, is not regulated by this section.
- (2) No person shall install in any motor vehicle any glass or other material that fails to conform to the specifications of this section.
- (3) No used motor vehicle dealer or new motor vehicle dealer, as defined in Ohio R.C. 4517.01, shall sell any motor vehicle that fails to conform to the specifications of this section.
- (4) No reflectORIZED materials shall be permitted upon or in any front windshield, side windows, sidewings or rear window.

- (5) No person shall operate on any highway or other public or private property open to the public for vehicular travel or parking, lease, or rent any motor vehicle that is required to be registered in this State that is equipped with privacy drapes, louvers, curtains or blinds unless the drapes, louvers, curtains or blinds are open and secure during vehicle operation.
  - (6) All motor vehicles, beginning with the 1990 model year, must be equipped with labels identifying sunscreening material. All suncreening material must indicate the manufacturer's name and the percentage level of light transmission of the material permanently installed between the material and the surface to which the material is applied or affixed. Such label must be legible and must be placed in the lower left-hand corner of the vehicle window when viewed from the outside. (OAC 4501-41-03)
- (b) Exemptions. The provisions of this section do not apply to:
- (1) A motor vehicle registered in this State in the name of a person, or the person's parent, legal guardian or spouse who has an affidavit signed by a physician licensed to practice in this State under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4731 or an affidavit signed by an optometrist licensed to practice in this State under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4725 that states that the person has a physical condition that makes it necessary to equip such motor vehicle with suncreening material which would be of a light transmittance and/or luminous reflectance in violation of this section. Such affidavit shall be in the possession of the person so afflicted or the driver at all times while in the motor vehicle;
  - (2) The windows to the rear of the driver in chauffeured limousines as defined herein;
  - (3) The windows to the rear of the driver in those vehicles designed and used to transport corpses which include hearses and other vehicles adapted for such use; and
  - (4) The manufacturer's tinting or glazing of motor vehicle windows or windshields that is otherwise in compliance with or permitted by "Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Number 205" (FMVSS 205) in effect at the time of the manufacture of the motor vehicle as provided in subsection (a) hereof. "Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Number 205" (FMVSS 205), Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Part 571, can be obtained online at web site <http://www.gpo.gov>. (OAC 4501-41-05)
- (c) Definitions. As used in this section, certain terms are defined as follows:
- (1) "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as specified in Section 301.20.
  - (2) "Sunscreening material" means products or materials, including film, glazing and perforated suncreening, which, when applied to the windshield or windows of a motor vehicle, reduce the effects of the sun with respect to light reflectance or transmittance.
  - (3) "Transmittance" means the ratio of the amount of total light, expressed in percentages, which is allowed to pass through the product or material, including glazing, to the amount of total light falling on the product or material and the glazing.
  - (4) "Windshield" means the front exterior viewing device of a motor vehicle.
  - (5) "Window" means any device designed for exterior viewing from a motor vehicle, except the windshield or any roof-mounted viewing device.

- (6) "Manufacturer" unless otherwise specified in this section, means any person who engages in the manufacturing or assembling of sunscreening products or materials or any person who fabricates, laminates or tempers a safety glazing material, incorporating, during the manufacturing process, the capacity to reflect or reduce the transmission of light.
- (7) "Chauffeured limousine" means a motor vehicle that is designed to carry nine or fewer passengers and is operated for hire on an hourly basis pursuant to a prearranged contract for the transportation of passengers on public roads and highways along a route under the control of the person hiring the vehicle and not over a defined and regular route. "Prearranged contract" means an arrangement, made in advance of boarding, to provide transportation from a specific location in a chauffeured limousine at a fixed rate per hour or trip. "Chauffeured limousine" does not include any vehicle that is used exclusively in the business of funeral directing. (OAC 4501-41-02)

(d) Penalty. Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 4513.241)

### **337.29 BUMPER HEIGHTS.**

(a) Definitions.

- (1) "Passenger car" means any motor vehicle with motive power, designed for carrying ten persons or less, except a multipurpose passenger vehicle or motorcycle.
- (2) "Multipurpose passenger vehicle" means a motor vehicle with motive power, except a motorcycle, designed to carry ten persons or less, that is constructed either on a truck chassis or with special features for occasional off-road operation.
- (3) "Truck" means every motor vehicle, except trailers and semitrailers, designed and used to carry property and having a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less.
- (4) "Manufacturer" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4501.01.
- (5) "Gross vehicle weight rating" means the manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating established for the vehicle.
- (6) "Body floor height" means the vertical distance between top of the frame rail and the bottom of the passenger compartment (cab) floor. In the event that the vehicle is a truck body, floor height will be measured by the vertical distance between the passenger compartment (cab) floor and the floor of the truck bed.
- (7) "Bumper height" means the vertical distance between the ground and the highest point of the bottom of the bumper, measured when the vehicle is laden on a level surface with the vehicle tires inflated to the manufacturer's recommended pressure.
- (8) "Frame" means the main longitudinal structural members of the chassis of the vehicle or, for vehicles with unitized body construction, the lowest main longitudinal structural members of the body of the vehicle.
- (9) "Wheel track distance" means the distance on the ground between the center of the tire tread on one side of the vehicle, and the center of the tire tread on the opposite side. (OAC 4501-43-02)

(b) Prohibitions; Application.

- (1) No person shall operate upon a street or highway any passenger car, multipurpose passenger vehicle, or truck registered in this State that does not conform to the requirements of this section.

- (2) No person shall modify any motor vehicle registered in this State in such a manner as to cause the vehicle body or chassis to come in contact with the ground, expose the fuel tank to damage from collision, or cause the wheels to come in contact with the body under normal operation, and no person shall disconnect any part of the original suspension system of the vehicle to defeat the safe operation of that system including the installation of inverted, altered or modified suspension system component parts which results in elevation of the height of the vehicle bumper or frame unit which is not in compliance with this section.
- (3) No person shall operate upon a street or highway any passenger car, multipurpose passenger vehicle or truck registered in this State without a bumper on the front and rear of the vehicle if such vehicle was equipped with bumpers as standard equipment by the manufacturer.
- (4) No person shall operate upon a street or highway any passenger car, multipurpose passenger vehicle or truck registered in this State if the difference in height between the body floor and the top of the frame exceeds four inches.
- (5) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prohibit either of the following:
- A. The installation upon a passenger car, multipurpose passenger vehicle or truck registered in this State of heavy duty equipment, including shock absorbers and overload springs as long as such equipment does not cause the vehicle to be in violation of this section;
- B. The operation on a street or highway of a passenger car, multipurpose passenger vehicle or truck registered in this State with normal wear to the suspension system if the normal wear does not adversely affect the control of the vehicle.
- (6) This section does not apply to any specially designed or modified passenger car, multipurpose passenger vehicle or truck when operated off a street or highway in races and similar events.
- (7) A specially designed or modified passenger car, multipurpose passenger vehicle or truck which does not conform to this section shall not be operated on a street or highway. (OAC 4501-43-03)
- (c) Specifications.
- (1) The horizontal bumper shall be at least 4.5 inches in vertical height, centered on the vehicle's centerline, and extend no less than the width of the respective wheel track distances. Bumpers shall be horizontal load bearing bumpers and attached to the vehicle frame to effectively transfer impact when engaged.
- (2) Maximum bumper heights shall be determined by the type of vehicle at time of manufacture. If other than a passenger vehicle, the maximum bumper height shall be determined by the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) at the time of manufacture. The height shall be measured in terms of the vertical distance between the ground and the bottom of the bumper. Maximum bumper heights are as follows:

	<u>Front (inches)</u>	<u>Rear (inches)</u>
Passenger Vehicles	22	22
All Other Vehicles:		
4,500 lbs. and under GVWR	24	26
4,501 lbs. to 7,500 lbs. GVWR	27	29
7,501 lbs. to 10,000 lbs. GVWR	28	31

- (3) If the body and/or truck bed height is altered the difference in height between the body floor and/or the truck bed floor to the top of the frame rail shall not exceed four inches.
- (4) For any vehicle with bumpers or attaching components which have been modified or altered from the original manufacturer's design in order to conform with the maximum bumper requirements of this section, the bumper height shall be measured from a level surface to the bottom of the vehicle frame rail at the most forward and rearward points of the frame rail. Frame rail height if bumper modified or altered:

	<u>Front (inches)</u>	<u>Rear (inches)</u>
Passenger Vehicles	22	22
All Other Vehicles:		
4,500 lbs. and under GVWR	24	26
4,501 lbs. to 7,500 lbs. GVWR	27	29
7,501 lbs. to 10,000 lbs. GVWR	28	31

- (5) The height restriction in this subsection (c) applies to the distance from the ground to the bottom of the frame rail under any one or more of the following conditions:
- A. A motor vehicle is not equipped with a front and rear bumper.
  - B. The bumper height relative to the frame rails has been altered.
  - C. A supplemental bumper has been installed or an addition to the original or replacement has been made.
- (OAC 4501-43-04)

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.99)

### **337.30 INSPECTION BY POLICE OFFICER**

(a) When directed by any law enforcement officer, the operator of any motor vehicle shall stop and submit such motor vehicle to an inspection and such tests as are necessary to determine whether it is unsafe or not equipped as required by law, or to determine if its equipment is not in proper adjustment or repair or is in violation of the equipment provisions of this chapter.

(b) Notwithstanding this section, no law enforcement officer shall cause an operator of an automobile being operated on any street or highway to stop the automobile for the sole purpose of determining whether a violation of a seat belt requirement has been or is being committed or for the sole purpose of issuing a ticket, citation or summons for such a violation or for causing the arrest or commencing prosecution of a person for such violation.

### **337.31 DIRECTIONAL SIGNALS REQUIRED.**

- (a) (1) No person shall operate any motor vehicle manufactured or assembled on or after January 1, 1954, unless the vehicle is equipped with electrical or mechanical directional signals.
- (2) No person shall operate any motorcycle or motor-driven cycle manufactured or assembled on or after January 1, 1968, unless the vehicle is equipped with electrical or mechanical directional signals.

(b) “Directional signals” means an electrical or mechanical signal device capable of clearly indicating an intention to turn either to the right or to the left and which shall be visible from both the front and rear.

(c) All mechanical signal devices shall be self-illuminating devices when in use at the times mentioned in Section 337.02.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.261)





**CHAPTER 339**  
**Commercial and Heavy Vehicles**

<p><b>339.01</b> Oversize or overweight vehicle operation on State routes; State permit.</p> <p><b>339.02</b> Truck routes.</p> <p><b>339.03</b> Maximum width, height and length.</p> <p><b>339.04</b> Route and load information.</p> <p><b>339.05</b> Wheel protectors.</p> <p><b>339.06</b> Vehicles transporting explosives.</p> <p><b>339.07</b> Towing requirements.</p> <p><b>339.08</b> Loads dropping or leaking; removal required; tracking mud.</p>	<p><b>339.09</b> Shifting load; loose loads.</p> <p><b>339.10</b> Vehicles with spikes, lugs and chains.</p> <p><b>339.11</b> Use of studded tires and chains.</p> <p><b>339.12</b> Bus routes.</p> <p><b>339.13</b> Idling of engines in residential areas.</p> <p><b>339.99</b> Penalty.</p>
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CROSS REFERENCES

See sectional histories for similar State law

Weighing vehicle; removal of excess load - see Ohio R.C. 4513.33

Arrest notice of driver - see Ohio R.C. 5577.14

Slower moving vehicles to be driven in right-hand lane - see TRAF. 331.01(b)

**339.01 OVERSIZE OR OVERWEIGHT VEHICLE OPERATION ON STATE ROUTES; STATE PERMIT.**

(a) No person shall operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum specified in Ohio R.C. 5577.01 to 5577.09, inclusive, or otherwise not in conformity with Ohio R.C. 4513.01 to 4513.37, inclusive, upon any State route within the Municipality, except pursuant to special written permit issued by the Ohio Director of Transportation, or upon any local truck route. Every such permit shall be carried in the vehicle or combination of vehicles to which it refers and shall be open to inspection by any police officer.

No holder of a permit issued by the Ohio Director of Transportation shall be required to obtain any local permit or license or pay any local fee or charge for movement on any State route within the Municipality; however, it shall be unlawful to operate any such vehicle or combination of vehicles upon any roadway within the Municipality which is not a State route, except as provided in Section 339.02. (ORC 4513.34)

(b) (1) No person shall violate the terms of a permit issued under this section that relate to gross load limits.

- (2) No person shall violate the terms of a permit issued under this section that relate to axle load by more than 2000 pounds per axle or group of axles.
- (3) No person shall violate the terms of a permit issued under this section that relate to an approved route except upon order of a law enforcement officer or authorized agent of the issuing authority.

(c) Whoever violates any provision of this section for which no other penalty is provided is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 4513.99)

### **339.02 TRUCK ROUTES.**

(a) Definitions. For the purposes of this section the following terms, phrases and words, and their derivation, shall have the meaning given herein.

- (1) "City" means the City of Oakwood, Montgomery County, Ohio.
- (2) "Deviating truck" means a truck which leaves and departs from a truck route while traveling inside the City.
- (3) "Person" means any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind.
- (4) "Truck" means any vehicle designed or operated primarily for the transportation of property, and whose body weight or combined body and load weight exceeds 10,000 pounds.
- (5) "Truck route" means a way over certain streets, as designated herein, over and along which trucks coming into and going out of the city must operate.

(b) Application of Section. All trucks within the city shall be operated only over and along the truck routes herein established and on the other designated streets over which truck travel is permitted. This section shall not prohibit:

- (1) Operation on street of destination. The operation of trucks upon any street of origin or where necessary to conduct business at a destination point, provided truck routes are used to or from the nearest intersection to the point of origin or destination.
- (2) Emergency vehicles. The operation of emergency vehicles upon any street in the City.
- (3) Public utilities. The operation of trucks owned or operated by the city, public utilities, any contractor or a material man, while engaged in the repair, maintenance or construction of streets, street improvements or street utilities within the city.
- (4) Detoured trucks. The operation of trucks upon any officially established street for which such detour is established.

(c) Truck Routes Established. The following truck routes are hereby established within the City: Far Hills Avenue (which is the same as State Route 48); West Schantz Avenue; Patterson Road; Shroyer Road; Schantz Avenue, west of Oakwood Avenue; Oakwood Avenue, from Brown Street to Far Hills Avenue.

(d) Truck Traffic in the City.

- (1) Outside origin; outside destination. All trucks entering the city from points outside the City and proceeding directly to a destination point outside the City shall operate only over the designated truck routes.
- (2) Outside origin; inside destination.

- A. One inside destination point. All trucks entering the City for a destination point in the City shall proceed only over an established truck route and shall deviate only at the intersection nearest the destination point. Upon leaving the destination point, a deviating truck shall return to the truck route by the shortest permissible route.
  - B. Multiple inside destination points. All trucks entering the City for multiple destination points shall proceed only over established truck routes and shall deviate only at the intersection nearest to the first destination point. Upon leaving the first destination point a deviating truck shall proceed to other destination points by the shortest and most direct course. Upon leaving the last destination point, a deviating truck shall return to a truck route by the shortest permissible route.
- (3) Inside origin.
- A. Outside destination point. All trucks, on a trip originating in the City and traveling in the City for a destination point outside the City, shall proceed by the shortest and most direct course over streets to a truck route as herein established.
  - B. Inside destination point. All trucks, on a trip originating in the City and traveling in the City for destination point in the City, shall proceed only by the shortest and most direct course.

(e) Signs. The City Manager shall cause all truck routes to be clearly sign posted to give notice that this section is in effect.

(f) Compliance required. No person shall drive a truck over any public street within the city except upon those streets herein designated as truck routes and except upon streets providing the shortest and most direct course between truck routes and origin or destination points as herein provided.

(g) Penalty. Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

### **339.03 MAXIMUM WIDTH, HEIGHT AND LENGTH.**

(a) No vehicle shall be operated upon the public highways, streets, bridges and culverts within the Municipality, whose dimensions exceed those specified in this section.

- (b) No such vehicle shall have a width in excess of:
- (1) 104 inches for passenger bus type vehicles operated exclusively within municipal corporations;
  - (2) 102 inches, excluding such safety devices as are required by law, for passenger bus type vehicles operated over freeways, and such other State roads with minimum pavement widths of twenty-two feet, except those roads or portions of roads over which operation of 102-inch buses is prohibited by order of the Ohio Director of Transportation;
  - (3) 132 inches for traction engines;
  - (4) 102 inches for recreational vehicles, excluding safety devices and retracted awnings and other appurtenances of six inches or less in width and except that the Director may prohibit the operation of 102-inch recreational vehicles on designated State highways or portions of highways;

- (5) 102 inches, including load, for all other vehicles, except that the Director may prohibit the operation of 102-inch vehicles on such State highways or portions of State highways as the Director designates.
- (c) No such vehicle shall have a length in excess of:
- (1) 66 feet for passenger bus type vehicles and articulated passenger bus type vehicles operated by a regional transit authority pursuant to Ohio R.C. 306.30 to 306.54;
  - (2) 45 feet for all other passenger bus type vehicles;
  - (3) 53 feet for any semitrailer when operated in a commercial tractor-semi-trailer combination, with or without load, except that the Director may, by journal entry, prohibit the operation of any such commercial tractor-semi-trailer combination on such State highways or portions of State highways as the Director designates;
  - (4) 28.5 feet for any semitrailer or trailer when operated in a commercial tractor-semi-trailer-trailer or commercial tractor-semi-trailer-semi-trailer combination, except that the Director may prohibit the operation of any such commercial tractor-semi-trailer-trailer or commercial tractor-semi-trailer-semi-trailer combination on such State highways or portions of State highways as the Director designates;
  - (5) A. 97 feet for drive-away saddle-mount vehicle transporter combinations and drive-away saddle-mount with full-mount vehicle transporter combinations when operated on any interstate, United States route, or State route, including reasonable access travel on all other roadways for a distance not to exceed one road mile from any interstate, United States route, or State route, not to exceed three saddle-mounted vehicles, but which may include one full-mount;  
B. 75 feet for drive-away saddle-mount vehicle transporter combinations and drive-away saddle-mount with full-mount vehicle transporter combinations, when operated on any roadway not designated as an interstate, United States route, or State route, not to exceed three saddle-mounted vehicles, but which may include one full-mount;
  - (6) 65 feet for any other combination of vehicles coupled together, with or without load, except as provided in subsections (c)(3) and (4) and in subsection (e) hereof;
  - (7) 45 feet for recreational vehicles.
  - (8) 50 feet for all other vehicles except trailers and semi-trailers, with or without load.
- (d) No such vehicle shall have a height in excess of thirteen feet six inches, with or without load.
- (e) An automobile transporter or boat transporter shall be allowed a length of sixty-five feet and a stinger-steered automobile transporter or stinger-steered boat transporter shall be allowed a length of seventy-five feet, except that the load thereon may extend no more than four feet beyond the rear of such vehicles and may extend no more than three feet beyond the front of such vehicles, and except further that the Director may prohibit the operation of any stinger-steered automobile transporter or stinger-steered boat transporter or a B-train assembly on any State highway or portion of any State highway that the Director designates.
- (f) The widths prescribed in subsection (b) shall not include side mirrors, turn signal lamps, marker lamps, handholds for cab entry and egress, flexible fender extensions, mud flaps, splash and spray suppressant devices, and load-induced tire bulge.

The width prescribed in subsection (b)(5) shall not include automatic covering devices, tarp and tarp hardware, and tiedown assemblies, provided these safety devices do not extend more than three inches from each side of the vehicle.

The lengths prescribed in subsections (c)(2) to (8) hereof shall not include safety devices, bumpers attached to the front or rear of such bus or combination, nonproperty carrying devices or components that do not extend more than twenty-four inches beyond the rear of the vehicle and are needed for loading or unloading, B-train assembly used between the first and second semitrailer of a commercial tractor-semitrailer-semitrailer combination, energy conservation devices as provided in any regulations adopted by the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, or any noncargo-carrying refrigeration equipment attached to the front of trailers and semitrailers. In special cases, vehicles whose dimensions exceed those prescribed by this section may operate in accordance with rules adopted by the Ohio Director of Transportation.

(g) This section does not apply to fire engines, fire trucks or other vehicles or apparatus belonging to any municipal corporation or to the volunteer fire department of any municipal corporation or used by such department in the discharge of its functions. This section does not apply to vehicles and pole trailers used in the transportation of wooden and metal poles, nor to the transportation of pipes or well-drilling equipment, nor to farm machinery and equipment. The owner or operator of any vehicle, machinery or equipment not specifically enumerated in this section but the dimensions of which exceed the dimensions provided by this section, when operating the same on the highways and streets of this State shall comply with the rules of the Director governing such movement, that the Director may adopt. Ohio R.C. 119.01 to 119.13 apply to any rules the Director adopts under this section, or the amendment or rescission of the rules, and any person adversely affected shall have the same right of appeal as provided in those sections.

This section does not require the State, the Municipality, County, township or any railroad or other private corporation to provide sufficient vertical clearance to permit the operation of such vehicle, or to make any changes in or about existing structures now crossing streets, roads and other public thoroughfares in the Municipality.

(h) As used in this section, "recreational vehicle" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4501.01. (ORC 5577.05)

(i) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense or subsequent offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. (ORC 5577.99)

#### **339.04 ROUTE AND LOAD INFORMATION.**

Drivers of vehicles described in this chapter shall be required, upon request by a police officer, to give full and true information as to the route they are following and the name of the consignor and consignee and place of delivery or removal and the location of any consignment being hauled or goods being removed, and upon a designation by such police officer of a route to be followed, shall immediately adopt and pursue such route.

#### **339.05 WHEEL PROTECTORS.**

(a) No person shall drive or operate, or cause to be driven or operated, any commercial car, trailer or semitrailer, used for the transportation of goods or property, the gross weight of which, with load, exceeds three tons, upon the streets, bridges and culverts within this Municipality unless such vehicle is equipped with suitable metal protectors or substantial flexible flaps on the rearmost wheels of such vehicle or combination of vehicles to prevent, as far as practicable, the wheels from throwing dirt, water or other materials on the windshields of following vehicles. Such protectors or flaps shall have a ground clearance of not more than one-

third of the distance from the center of the rearmost axle to the center of the flaps under any conditions of loading of the vehicle, and they shall be at least as wide as the tires they are protecting. If the vehicle is so designed and constructed that such requirements are accomplished by means of fenders, body construction or other means of enclosure, then no such protectors or flaps are required. Rear wheels not covered at the top by fenders, bodies or other parts of the vehicle shall be covered at the top by protective means extending at least to the center line of the rearmost axle. (ORC 5577.11)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

### **339.06 VEHICLES TRANSPORTING EXPLOSIVES.**

(a) Any person operating any vehicle transporting explosives upon a street or highway shall at all times comply with the following requirements:

- (1) Such vehicle shall be marked or placarded on each side and on the rear with the word "EXPLOSIVES" in letters not less than eight inches high, or there shall be displayed on the rear of such vehicle a red flag not less than twenty-four inches square marked with the word "DANGER" in white letters six inches high, or shall be marked or placarded in accordance with Section 177.823 of the United States Department of Transportation Regulations.
- (2) Such vehicle shall be equipped with not less than two fire extinguishers, filled and ready for immediate use, and placed at convenient points on such vehicle. (ORC 4513.29)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.99)

### **339.07 TOWING REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) When one vehicle is towing another vehicle, the drawbar or other connection shall be of sufficient strength to pull all weight towed thereby, and such drawbar or other connection shall not exceed fifteen feet from one vehicle to the other, except the connection between any two vehicles transporting poles, pipe, machinery or other objects of structural nature which cannot readily be dismembered.

(b) When one vehicle is towing another and the connection consists only of a chain, rope or cable, there shall be displayed upon such connection a white flag or cloth not less than twelve inches square.

(c) In addition to such drawbar or other connection, each trailer and each semitrailer which is not connected to a commercial tractor by means of a fifth wheel shall be coupled with stay chains or cables to the vehicle by which it is being drawn. The chains or cables shall be of sufficient size and strength to prevent the towed vehicle's parting from the drawing vehicle in case the drawbar or other connection should break or become disengaged. In case of a loaded pole trailer, the connecting pole to the drawing vehicle shall be coupled to the drawing vehicle with stay chains or cables of sufficient size and strength to prevent the towed vehicle's parting from the drawing vehicle.

(d) Every trailer or semitrailer, except pole and cable trailers and pole and cable dollies operated by a public utility, as defined in Ohio R.C. 5727.01, shall be equipped with a coupling device which shall be so designed and constructed that the trailer will follow substantially in the path of the vehicle drawing it, without whipping or swerving from side to side. Vehicles used to transport agricultural produce or agricultural production materials between a local place of storage and supply and the farm, when drawn or towed on a street or highway at a speed of twenty-five

miles per hour or less, and vehicles designed and used exclusively to transport a boat between a place of storage and a marina, or in and around a marina, when drawn or towed on a street or highway for a distance of no more than ten miles and at a speed of twenty-five miles per hour or less shall have a drawbar or other connection, including the hitch mounted on the towing vehicle, which shall be of sufficient strength to pull all the weight towed thereby. Only one such vehicle used to transport agricultural produce or agricultural production materials as provided in this section may be towed or drawn at one time, except as follows:

- (1) An agricultural tractor may tow or draw more than one such vehicle;
- (2) A pickup truck or straight truck designed by the manufacturer to carry a load of not less than one-half ton and not more than two tons may tow or draw not more than two such vehicles that are being used to transport agricultural produce from the farm to a local place of storage. No vehicle being so towed by such a pickup truck or straight truck shall be considered to be a motor vehicle. (ORC 4513.32)

(e) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.99)

### **339.08 LOADS DROPPING OR LEAKING; REMOVAL REQUIRED; TRACKING MUD.**

(a) No vehicle shall be driven or moved on any street, highway or other public place unless such vehicle is so constructed, loaded or covered as to prevent any of its load from dropping, sifting, leaking or otherwise escaping therefrom, except that sand or other substances may be dropped for the purpose of securing traction, or water or other substances may be sprinkled on a roadway in cleaning or maintaining such roadway.

(b) Except for a farm vehicle used to transport agricultural produce or agricultural production materials or a rubbish vehicle in the process of acquiring its load, no vehicle loaded with garbage, swill, cans, bottles, waste paper, ashes, refuse, trash, rubbish, waste, wire, paper, cartons, boxes, glass, solid waste or any other material of an unsanitary nature that is susceptible to blowing or bouncing from a moving vehicle shall be driven or moved on any street, highway or other public place unless the load is covered with a sufficient cover to prevent the load or any part of the load from spilling onto the street, highway or other public place.  
(ORC 4513.31)

(c) No person shall operate any vehicle so as to track or drop mud, stones, gravel or other similar material on any street, highway or other public place.

(d) It shall be the duty of the driver of a vehicle who unlawfully drops or deposits mud, stones, gravel or other similar material or permits the load or any portion thereof to be dropped or deposited upon any street, highway or other public place to immediately remove the same or cause it to be removed. (ORC 4513.31)

(e) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4513.99)

### **339.09 SHIFTING LOAD; LOOSE LOADS.**

(a) In addition to any other lawful requirements of load distribution, no person shall operate any vehicle upon a street or highway unless such vehicle is so laden as to prevent its contents from shifting or otherwise unbalancing the vehicle to such an extent as to interfere with the safe operation of the same.

(b) No motor vehicle or trailer shall be driven unless the tailboard or tailgate, tarpaulins, chains (except ground or contact chains), ropes, stakes, poles, and the like, or any part of the load, are securely fastened to prevent dangling, flapping, swinging or falling from the side, end or top of the load or body. All projecting cargo shall be properly guarded by a red flag or cloth or a red light or lantern as required by Section 337.08.

(c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

### **339.10 VEHICLES WITH SPIKES, LUGS AND CHAINS.**

(a) No person shall drive over the improved streets of this Municipality a traction engine or tractor with tires or wheels equipped with ice picks, spuds, spikes, chains or other projections of any kind extending beyond the cleats, or no person shall tow or in any way pull another vehicle over the improved streets of this Municipality, which towed or pulled vehicle has tires or wheels equipped with ice picks, spuds, spikes, chains or other projections of any kind. "Traction engine" or "tractor," as used in this section, applies to all self-propelling engines equipped with metal-tired wheels operated or propelled by any form of engine, motor or mechanical power. (ORC 5589.08)

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 5589.99)

### **339.11 USE OF STUDED TIRES AND CHAINS.**

(a) For purposes of this section, "studded tire" means any tire designed for use on a vehicle, and equipped with metal studs or studs of wear-resisting material that project beyond the tread of the traction surface of the tire. "Motor vehicle," "street or highway," "public safety vehicle" and "school bus" have the same meanings as given those terms in Chapter 301.

- (b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (b)(2) hereof, no person shall operate any motor vehicle, other than a public safety vehicle or bus, that is equipped with studded tires on any street or highway, except during the period extending from November 1 of each year through April 15 of the succeeding year.
- (2) A person may operate a motor vehicle that is equipped with retractable studded tires with the studs retracted at any time of the year, but shall operate the motor vehicle with the studs extended only as provided in subsection (b)(1) hereof.

(c) This section does not apply to the use of tire chains when there is snow or ice on the streets or highways where such chains are being used, or the immediate vicinity thereof.  
(ORC 5589.081)

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 5589.99)

### **339.12 BUS ROUTES.**

(a) Definition. For the purposes of this section the word "bus" shall mean any motor vehicles which exceeds any one of the following measurements:

Height: Seven feet (measured from ground level) plus an additional one and one-half feet for accessories, but no antenna shall be measured in determining the height.



Width: Seven feet.

Length: Twenty feet.

The following objects shall be excluded, however, from the above definition of a bus while being used on a direct route to and from their destination within this City:

- (1) Academic school and church school buses while being used to pick up or deliver students for attendance at school or extra curricular activities.
- (2) Vehicles being used for the sole purpose of picking up, delivering or waiting for handicapped persons. Such vehicles must comply with applicable provisions of the federal legislation known as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- (3) Motor homes (whether originally designed as such or vehicles converted to that use) while being used to pick up or deliver or visit residents of the city. Such motor homes must comply with zoning code restriction as to being on any residential lot, as set forth in Chapter 1115 and 1119.
- (4) Trucks whose routes are already regulated under Section 339.02 of these Codified Ordinances.
- (5) Construction equipment and recreation equipment, together with any accompanying trailers and the vehicles to tow such trailers.
- (6) Emergency vehicles and other vehicles used for city activities.
- (7) Vehicles allowed as special exceptions on the basis of an application to the City and written approval granted by the City Manager. Such approval may be granted only if the following standards are met:
  - A. There has been no more than one such special exception granted for that location within the previous 12 months. This limitation shall not apply, however, if such vehicles are parked off street and on the destination site, at least 100 feet back from the nearest public street and if, in the determination of the City Manager, the parking location is reasonably well screened from residential properties adjoining each side and the rear of the destination site, on the same side of the street as that site.
  - B. No commercial purpose is involved on behalf of the Oakwood residents being visited. If the destination site is not part of a single family residence property, the purpose of the vehicle trip must be accessory to the lawful use of that site. Further, the vehicle must be owned or chartered by the owners or occupants of the destination site.
  - C. The vehicle must comply with restrictions against idling, with parking regulations, and with all other provisions of the ordinances of this City.
  - D. There will be no substantial adverse impact to the neighbors or their properties if the approval is granted.

(b) All buses operating within the City shall be restricted to those streets on which the speed limits are 35 miles per hour plus Patterson Road, streets within business zoning districts, and Park Avenue from Far Hills to the business district. Those 35 MPH streets are Far Hills Avenue, Shroyer Road, Oakwood Avenue between its intersection with Far Hills Avenue and the north City limit, and West Schantz Avenue.

(c) Signs shall be posted at appropriate places as determined by the Public Safety Director so as to give notice of the bus routes required by this section.

(d) No person shall drive a bus within this City except in compliance with this section. No person shall arrange for a bus to be operated within this City unless that person specifically requires that the bus operator comply with this section.

(e) The first violation of this section shall constitute a fourth degree misdemeanor. Any person or entity who violates this section a second time, whether the violation is of the same or a different subsection, shall be guilty of a third degree misdemeanor. If the same person or entity commits a third or any subsequent violation of this section, whether of the same subsection or not, the offense shall be a second degree misdemeanor.  
(Ord. 4104. Passed 12-23-91; Ord. 4109. Passed 1-6-92.)

**339.13 IDLING OF ENGINES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS.**

(a) No operator of a truck (as defined in 339.02) or of a bus (as defined in 339.12) may idle the engine of such a vehicle, or permit it to be idled, on any street or property in a residential area for more than five consecutive minutes during any span of 60 minutes, or for more than a total of eight minutes during any such 60-minute span. Construction equipment is excluded from this prohibition to the extent it is in reasonably continuous usage on or for a particular site.

(b) The first violation of this section shall constitute a fourth degree misdemeanor. Any person or entity who violates this section a second time, whether the violation is of the same or a different subsection, shall be guilty of a third degree misdemeanor. If the same person or entity commits a third or any subsequent violation of this section, whether of the same subsection or not, the offense shall be a second degree misdemeanor.  
(Ord. 4105. Passed 12-23-91.)

**CHAPTER 341**  
**Commercial Drivers**

<b>341.01</b>	<b>Definitions.</b>	<b>341.04</b>	<b>Prohibitions.</b>
<b>341.02</b>	<b>Exemptions.</b>	<b>341.05</b>	<b>Criminal offenses.</b>
<b>341.03</b>	<b>Prerequisites to operation of a commercial motor vehicle.</b>	<b>341.06</b>	<b>Employment of drivers of commercial vehicles.</b>

CROSS REFERENCES

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Disqualification - see Ohio R.C. 4506.16  
 Suspension or revocation of license - see Ohio R.C. 4507.16  
 Warning devices when disabled on freeways - see Ohio R.C. 4513.28  
 Arrest notice of driver - see Ohio R.C. 5577.14  
 Load limits - see TRAF. Ch. 339

**341.01 DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this chapter:

- (a) "Alcohol concentration" means the concentration of alcohol in a person's blood, breath or urine. When expressed as a percentage, it means grams of alcohol per the following:
  - (1) One hundred milliliters of whole blood, blood serum, or blood plasma;
  - (2) Two hundred ten liters of breath;
  - (3) One hundred milliliters of urine.
- (b) "Commercial driver's license" means a license issued in accordance with Ohio R.C. Chapter 4506 that authorizes an individual to drive a commercial motor vehicle.
- (c) "Commercial motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle designed or used to transport persons or property that meets any of the following qualifications:
  - (1) Any combination of vehicles with a gross vehicle weight or combined gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more, provided the gross vehicle weight or gross vehicle weight rating of the vehicle or vehicles being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds;
  - (2) Any single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight or gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more;
  - (3) Any single vehicle or combination of vehicles that is not a class A or class B vehicle, but is designed to transport sixteen or more passengers including the driver;

- (4) Any school bus with a gross vehicle weight or gross vehicle weight rating of less than 26,001 pounds that is designed to transport fewer than sixteen passengers including the driver;
  - (5) Is transporting hazardous materials for which placarding is required under subpart F of 49 C.F.R. part 172, as amended;
  - (6) Any single vehicle or combination of vehicles that is designed to be operated and to travel on a public street or highway and is considered by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to be a commercial motor vehicle, including, but not limited to, a motorized crane, a vehicle whose function is to pump cement, a rig for drilling wells, and a portable crane.
- (d) "Controlled substance" means all of the following:
- (1) Any substance classified as a controlled substance under the "Controlled Substances Act," 80 Stat. 1242 (1970), 21 U.S.C.A. 802(6), as amended;
  - (2) Any substance included in schedules I through V of 21 C.F.R. part 1308, as amended;
  - (3) Any drug of abuse.
- (e) "Disqualification" means any of the following:
- (1) The suspension, revocation, or cancellation of a person's privileges to operate a commercial motor vehicle;
  - (2) Any withdrawal of a person's privileges to operate a commercial motor vehicle as the result of a violation of state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control other than parking, vehicle weight, or vehicle defect violations;
  - (3) A determination by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration that a person is not qualified to operate a commercial motor vehicle under 49 C.F.R. 391.
- (f) "Drive" means to drive, operate or be in physical control of a motor vehicle.
- (g) "Driver" means any person who drives, operates or is in physical control of a commercial motor vehicle or is required to have a commercial driver's license.
- (h) "Driver's license" means a license issued by the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles that authorizes an individual to drive.
- (i) "Drug of abuse" means any controlled substance, dangerous drug as defined in Ohio R.C. 4729.01 or over-the-counter medication that, when taken in quantities exceeding the recommended dosage, can result in impairment of judgment or reflexes.
- (j) "Employer" means any person, including the Federal Government, any state and a political subdivision of any state, that owns or leases a commercial motor vehicle or assigns a person to drive such a motor vehicle.
- (k) "Endorsement" means an authorization on a person's commercial driver's license that is required to permit the person to operate a specified type of commercial motor vehicle.
- (l) "Farm truck" means a truck controlled and operated by a farmer for use in the transportation to or from a farm, for a distance of not more than one hundred fifty miles, of products of the farm, including livestock and its products, poultry and its products, floricultural and horticultural products, and in the transportation to the farm, from a distance of not more than one hundred fifty miles, of supplies for the farm, including tile, fence, and every other thing or commodity used in agricultural, floricultural, horticultural, livestock and poultry production, and livestock, poultry and other animals and things used for breeding, feeding, or other purposes connected with the operation of the farm, when the truck is operated in accordance with this subsection and is not used in the operations of a motor carrier, as defined in Ohio R.C. 4923.01.

- (m) "Fatality" means the death of a person as the result of a motor vehicle accident occurring not more than three hundred sixty-five days prior to the date of a death.
- (n) "Felony" means any offense under federal or state law that is punishable by death or specifically classified as a felony under the law of this State, regardless of the penalty that may be imposed.
- (o) "Foreign jurisdiction" means any jurisdiction other than a state.
- (p) "Gross vehicle weight rating" means the value specified by the manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight of a single or a combination vehicle. The gross vehicle weight rating of a combination vehicle is the gross vehicle weight rating of the power unit plus the gross vehicle weight rating of each towed unit.
- (q) "Hazardous materials" means any material that has been designated as hazardous under 49 U.S.C. 5103 and is required to be placarded under subpart F of 49 C.F.R. part 172 or any quantity of a material listed as a select agent or toxin in 42 C.F.R. part 73, as amended.
- (r) "Motor vehicle" means a vehicle, machine, tractor, trailer, or semitrailer propelled or drawn by mechanical power used on highways, except that such term does not include a vehicle, machine, tractor, trailer or semitrailer operated exclusively on a rail.
- (s) "Out-of-service order" means a declaration by an authorized enforcement officer of a federal, state, local, Canadian or Mexican jurisdiction declaring that a driver, commercial motor vehicle or commercial motor carrier operation is out of service as defined in 49 C.F.R. 390.5.
- (t) "Public safety vehicle" has the same meaning as in divisions (E)(1) and (3) of Ohio R.C. 4511.01.
- (u) "Recreational vehicle" includes every vehicle that is defined as a recreational vehicle in Ohio R.C. 4501.01 and is used exclusively for purposes other than engaging in business for profit.
- (v) "School bus" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4511.01.
- (w) "State" means a state of the United States and includes the District of Columbia.
- (x) "Tester" means a person or entity acting pursuant to a valid agreement entered into pursuant to Ohio R.C. 4506.09.
- (y) "United States" means the fifty states and the District of Columbia.
- (z) "Vehicle" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4511.01.  
(ORC 4506.01)

### **341.02 EXEMPTIONS.**

Section 341.02 has been deleted from the Codified Ordinances. Former Ohio R.C. 4506.02 from which Section 341.02 was derived was repealed by Am. Sub. H.B. No. 68, effective June 29, 2005. The exemptions are now contained in Section 341.03.

### **341.03 PREREQUISITES TO OPERATION OF A COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE.**

- (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the following shall apply:
  - (1) No person shall drive a commercial motor vehicle on a highway in this Municipality unless the person holds, and has in the person's possession, any of the following:
    - A. A valid commercial driver's license with proper endorsements for the motor vehicle being driven, issued by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, or by another jurisdiction recognized by this State;
    - B. A valid examiner's commercial driving permit issued under Ohio R.C. 4506.13;

- C. A valid restricted commercial driver's license and waiver for farm-related service industries issued under Ohio R.C. 4506.24;
  - D. A valid commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit issued by the Registrar, provided that the person is accompanied by an authorized state driver's license examiner or tester or a person who has been issued and has in the person's immediate possession a current, valid commercial driver's license and who meets the requirements of Ohio R.C. 4506.06(B).
- (2) No person who has been a resident of this State for thirty days or longer shall drive a commercial motor vehicle under the authority of a commercial driver's license issued by another jurisdiction.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this section applies to any qualified person when engaged in the operation of any of the following:

- (1) A farm truck;
- (2) Fire equipment for a fire department, volunteer or nonvolunteer fire company, fire district, or joint fire district;
- (3) A public safety vehicle used to provide transportation or emergency medical service for ill or injured persons;
- (4) A recreational vehicle;
- (5) A commercial motor vehicle within the boundaries of an eligible unit of local government, if the person is employed by the eligible unit of local government and is operating the commercial motor vehicle for the purpose of removing snow or ice from a roadway by plowing, sanding, or salting, but only if either the employee who holds a commercial driver's license issued under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4506 and ordinarily operates a commercial motor vehicle for these purposes is unable to operate the vehicle, or the employing eligible unit of local government determines that a snow or ice emergency exists that requires additional assistance;
- (6) A vehicle operated for military purposes by any member or uniformed employee of the armed forces of the United States or their reserve components, including the Ohio national guard. This exception does not apply to United States reserved technicians.
- (7) A commercial motor vehicle that is operated for nonbusiness purposes. "Operated for nonbusiness purposes" means that the commercial motor vehicle is not used in commerce as "commerce" is defined in 49 C.F.R. 383.5, as amended, and is not regulated by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Ohio R.C. Chapter 4905, 4921, or 4923.
- (8) A motor vehicle that is designed primarily for the transportation of goods and not persons, while that motor vehicle is being used for the occasional transportation of personal property by individuals not for compensation and not in the furtherance of a commercial enterprise.
- (9) A police SWAT team vehicle.
- (10) A police vehicle used to transport prisoners.

(c) Nothing contained in subsection (b)(5) of this section shall be construed as preempting or superseding any law, rule, or regulation of this State concerning the safe operation of commercial motor vehicles.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.  
(ORC 4506.03)

**341.04 PROHIBITIONS.**

- (a) No person shall do any of the following:
- (1) Drive a commercial motor vehicle while having in the person's possession or otherwise under the person's control more than one valid driver's license issued by this State, any other state or by a foreign jurisdiction;
  - (2) Drive a commercial motor vehicle on a highway in this Municipality in violation of an out-of-service order, while the person's driving privilege is suspended, revoked or canceled, or while the person is subject to disqualification;
  - (3) Drive a motor vehicle on a highway in this Municipality under authority of a commercial driver's license issued by another state or a foreign jurisdiction, after having been a resident of this State for thirty days or longer.
- (b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.  
(ORC 4506.04)

**341.05 CRIMINAL OFFENSES.**

- (a) No person who holds a commercial driver's license, or commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit or who operates a motor vehicle for which a commercial driver's license or permit is required shall do any of the following:
- (1) Drive a commercial motor vehicle while having a measureable or detectable amount of alcohol or of a controlled substance in the person's blood, breath or urine;
  - (2) Drive a commercial motor vehicle while having an alcohol concentration of four-hundredths of one per cent or more by whole blood or breath;
  - (3) Drive a commercial motor vehicle while having an alcohol concentration of forty-eight-thousandths of one per cent or more by blood serum or blood plasma;
  - (4) Drive a commercial motor vehicle while having an alcohol concentration of fifty-six-thousandths of one per cent or more by urine;
  - (5) Drive a motor vehicle while under the influence of a controlled substance;
  - (6) Drive a motor vehicle in violation of Ohio R.C. 4511.19 or a municipal OVI ordinance as defined in Ohio R.C. 4511.181;
  - (7) Use a motor vehicle in the commission of a felony;
  - (8) Refuse to submit to a test under Ohio R.C. 4506.17 or 4511.191;
  - (9) Operate a commercial motor vehicle while the person's commercial driver's license or permit or other commercial driving privileges are revoked, suspended, canceled, or disqualified;
  - (10) Cause a fatality through the negligent operation of a commercial motor vehicle, including, but not limited to, the offenses of aggravated vehicular homicide, vehicular homicide, and vehicular manslaughter;
  - (11) Fail to stop after an accident in violation of Sections 335.12 to 335.14;
  - (12) Drive a commercial motor vehicle in violation of any provision of Ohio R.C. 4511.61 to 4511.63 or any federal or local law or ordinance pertaining to railroad-highway grade crossings;
  - (13) Use a motor vehicle in the commission of a felony involving the manufacture, distribution, or dispensing of a controlled substance as defined in Ohio R.C. 3719.01 or the possession with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispose a controlled substance.
- (b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.  
(ORC 4506.15)

**341.06 EMPLOYMENT OF DRIVERS OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES.**

(a) Each employer shall require every applicant for employment as a driver of a commercial motor vehicle to provide the applicant's employment history for the ten years preceding the date the employment application is submitted to the prospective employer. The following information shall be submitted:

- (1) A list of the names and addresses of the applicant's previous employers for which the applicant was the operator of a commercial motor vehicle;
- (2) The dates the applicant was employed by these employers;
- (3) The reason for leaving each of these employers.

(b) No employer shall knowingly permit or authorize any driver employed by the employer to drive a commercial motor vehicle during any period in which any of the following apply:

- (1) The driver's commercial driver's license is suspended, revoked or canceled by any state or a foreign jurisdiction;
- (2) The driver has lost the privilege to drive, or currently is disqualified from driving, a commercial motor vehicle in any state or foreign jurisdiction;
- (3) The driver, the commercial motor vehicle the driver is driving, or the motor carrier operation is subject to an out-of-service order in any state or foreign jurisdiction;
- (4) The driver has more than one driver's license.

(c) No employer shall knowingly permit or authorize a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle in violation of Section 341.05.

(d) No employer shall knowingly permit or authorize a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle if the driver does not hold a valid, current commercial driver's license or commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit bearing the proper class or endorsements for the vehicle. No employer shall knowingly permit or authorize a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle in violation of the restrictions on the driver's commercial driver's license or commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit.

- (e) (1) Whoever violates subsection (a), (b) or (d) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- (2) Whoever violates subsection (c) of this section may be assessed a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars. (ORC 4506.20)



**CHAPTER 343**  
**Interfering With Buses**

**343.01 Offenses involving electric trolley or motor buses.**

CROSS REFERENCES

See Bus Routes in TRAF. CODE 339.12

Throwing or projecting missiles at vehicles -- see GEN. OFF. 549.09

**343.01 OFFENSES INVOLVING ELECTRIC TROLLEY OR MOTOR BUSES.**

- (a) As used in this section "bus" means any electric trolley or motor bus being operated within the City upon a fixed route and according to a published schedule.
- (b) No person shall commit any of the following offenses:
- (1) Drive or stop any vehicle, except a public safety vehicle in the discharge of its duties, in such manner as willfully to impede the movement of a bus, except at such time as is reasonably necessary to receive or discharge passengers. No provisions herein shall give any vehicle, other than a bus or a public safety vehicle, the right to stop in a designated bus loading zone.
  - (2) Disengage any trolley pole or poles of an electric trolley bus from the overhead wires, or throw any obstruction over the overhead wires or appurtenances used in the operation of an electric trolley bus, except a police officer in the discharge of his duties, or a duly authorized agent of the transit company or an employee of the transit company while in the performance of the company's business.
  - (3) Throw a stone or other harmful object at a bus, shoot a missile at a bus or knowingly commit any similar act which interferes in any way with the safe and expeditious movement of a bus, except as required by law.
  - (4) Board a bus except by the front door, unless authorized to use another method of entrance on the specific occasion by an employee of the company operating the bus.
  - (5) Expectorate in or upon any bus.
  - (6) Fail or refuse to pay the lawfully required fare upon boarding a bus, when such fare is demanded by the operator of the bus.
  - (7) Smoke tobacco in any form, or carry lighted or burning tobacco in any form on a bus, other than on a bus which is then under charter.
- (c) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.



**TITLE SEVEN - Parking**  
Chap. 351. Parking Generally.

**CHAPTER 351**  
**Parking Generally**

- |        |  |        |  |
|--------|--|--------|--|
| 351.01 | Removal of unattended vehicle obstructing traffic, or a safety hazard. | 351.13 | Moving from one parking space to another.                            |
| 351.02 | Snow emergency; removal of vehicles.                                   | 351.14 | Emergency street repairs.  |
| 351.03 | Registered owner prima-facie liable for unlawful parking.              | 351.15 | 18-hour parking limit.   |
| 351.04 | Parking prohibitions.  | 351.16 | Oversized vehicle parked on residential streets -- 4-hour limit.     |
| 351.05 | Parallel parking.  | 351.17 | Trailers, towed vehicles parked on streets, limited hours.           |
| 351.06 | Angle parking.   | 351.18 | Trailers, towed vehicles parked on private property, wheels chocked. |
| 351.07 | Selling, washing or repairing vehicle upon roadway.                    | 351.19 | Park prohibitions on private property.                               |
| 351.08 | Condition when vehicle left unattended.                                | 351.20 | Parking for handicapped persons.                                     |
| 351.09 | Boarding or leaving stopping vehicles.                                 | 351.21 | Fire lanes, parking prohibited.                                      |
| 351.10 | Parking of trucks and commercial vehicles.                             | 351.22 | Payment of fine without court appearance.                            |
| 351.11 | Bus stops and taxicab stands -- no parking.                            | 351.99 | Penalty.   |
| 351.12 | Parking in alleys and narrow streets; exceptions.                      |        |  |

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law  
 Owner nonliability, lease defense - see Ohio R.C. 4511.071  
 Police may remove ignition key from unattended vehicle - see TRAF. 303.03  
 Parking near stopped fire apparatus - see TRAF. 331.27  
 Lights on parked or stopped vehicles - see TRAF. 337.09

**351.01 REMOVAL OF UNATTENDED VEHICLE OBSTRUCTING TRAFFIC, OR A SAFETY HAZARD.**

Whenever any police officer finds a vehicle unattended upon any street, bridge, causeway, or in any tunnel, where such vehicle constitutes an obstruction to traffic or safety hazard, such officer may provide for the removal of such vehicle to an approved garage or other place of safety, as provided in Section 303.08.

(Ord. 3032. Passed 3-10-73; Ord. 3294. Passed 10-4-82.)

**351.02 SNOW EMERGENCY; REMOVAL OF VEHICLES.**

The City Manager shall have authority to declare a "snow emergency" based upon part or all of this city receiving snowfalls which endanger or threaten to endanger the health, safety or welfare of persons or property and in the further event any police officer finds an unattended vehicle parked in whole or in part upon any public street or highway in such a manner that the vehicle, either itself or together with adjoining snow, constitutes an obstruction to snow removal equipment or other vehicles or equipment of this City, the police officer may provide for the removal of such vehicle to an approved garage or other place of safety, as provided in Section 303.08, after compliance with the following procedures:

- (a) One hour must have passed after the declaration of such a snow emergency before removal of any such vehicle;
- (b) The City must have made the following reasonable efforts to notify the owner of such vehicle that it is subject to immediate removal:
  - (1) Attempt to obtain the name and address of the vehicle owner through the appropriate state agencies.
  - (2) If the vehicle is registered to an address in the 937 area code, attempt to notify the owner by telephone so long as long distance expenses are not incurred. (Cross references: See 339.07 as to safety procedure in towing a vehicle and 351.14 as to emergency, no parking areas.)

**351.03 REGISTERED OWNER PRIMA-FACIE LIABLE FOR UNLAWFUL PARKING.**

If any vehicle is found upon a street, highway, alley, park or other public grounds of the City, in violation of any provision of this Traffic Code regulating the stopping or standing or parking of vehicles, and the identity of the driver cannot be determined, the owner or person in whose name such vehicle is registered shall be held prima-facie responsible for such violation.

**351.04 PARKING PROHIBITIONS.**

No person shall stand or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or to comply with the provisions of this Traffic Code, or while obeying the directions of a police officer or a traffic control device, in any of the following places:

- (a) On a sidewalk, except a bicycle.
- (b) In front of a public or private driveway, or within 5 feet of either side of any such driveway;
- (c) Within an intersection;
- (d) Within 10 feet of a fire hydrant;
- (e) On a crosswalk;
- (f) Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection;

- (g) Within 30 feet of, and upon the approach to, any flashing beacon, stop sign or traffic control device;
- (h) Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb or within 30 feet of points on the curb immediately opposite the end of a safety zone, unless a different length is indicated by a traffic control device;
- (i) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when such standing or parking would obstruct traffic;
- (j) Alongside any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street (double parking);
- (k) At any place where curbs are painted yellow for purposes of prohibiting parking;
- (l) At any place where signs prohibit stopping, standing or parking or at any place in excess of the maximum time limited by signs;
- (m) Within one foot of another parked vehicle. (Cross reference: See other sections of this chapter for additional parking prohibitions.) (A.O.)
- (n) Upon a curb. (Ord. 4740. Passed 11-7-11.)

### **351.05 PARALLEL PARKING.**

(a) Every vehicle stopped or parked upon a roadway where there is an adjacent curb shall be stopped or parked with the curb side wheels of such vehicle parallel with and not more than 12 inches from the curb, unless it is impossible to approach so close to the curb; in such case the stop shall be as close to the curb as possible and only for the time necessary to discharge and receive passengers or to load or unload merchandise.

- (b) (1) A. Except as provided in subsection (b)(1)B. hereof, no vehicle shall be stopped or parked on a road or highway with the vehicle facing in a direction other than the direction of travel on that side of the road or highway.
- B. The operator of a motorcycle may back the motorcycle into an angled parking space so that when the motorcycle is parked it is facing in a direction other than the direction of travel on the side of the road or highway.
- (2) The operator of a motorcycle may back the motorcycle into a parking space that is located on the side of, and parallel to, a road or highway. The motorcycle may face any direction when so parked. Not more than two motorcycles at a time shall be parked in a parking space as described in subsection (c)(2) of this section irrespective of whether or not the space is metered.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of this Code, trucks and other equipment being used in the construction, reconstruction, installation, repair, or removal of facilities near, on, over or under a street may stop, stand or park where necessary in order to perform such work, provided a flagman is on duty, or warning signs or lights are displayed as may be prescribed by the state director of transportation.

### **351.06 ANGLE PARKING.**

Upon streets where angle parking is permitted, no person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle other than at the angle to the curb so designated and so that the front of the vehicle is facing the curb, against which it is parked.  
(Ord. 2970. Passed 7-12-76.)

**351.07 SELLING, WASHING OR REPAIRING VEHICLE UPON ROADWAY.**

No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle upon any roadway for the principal purpose of:

- (a) Displaying such vehicle for sale;
- (b) Washing, greasing or repairing such vehicle except repairs necessitated by an emergency;
- (c) Advertising an article, product or service.

**351.08 CONDITION WHEN VEHICLE LEFT UNATTENDED.**

(a) No person driving or in charge of a motor vehicle shall permit it to stand unattended without first stopping the engine, locking the ignition, removing the key from the ignition, effectively setting the parking brake, and, when the motor vehicle is standing upon any grade, turning the front wheels to the curb or side of the highway.

The requirements of this section relating to the stopping of the engine, locking of the ignition and removing the key from the ignition of a motor vehicle do not apply to any of the following:

- (1) A motor vehicle that is parked on residential property;
- (2) A motor vehicle that is locked, regardless of where it is parked;
- (3) An emergency vehicle;
- (4) A public safety vehicle.

**351.09 BOARDING OR LEAVING STOPPED VEHICLES.**

No person shall enter or leave or open the door of a parked or stopped motor vehicle on the side of such vehicle next to a lane or line of moving traffic unless such person has exercised due care that the movement can be made without causing the driver of a passing motor vehicle to suddenly stop or turn to swerve from a direct course of travel, or to become involved in an accident or collision due to such movement.

**351.10 PARKING OF TRUCKS AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLES.**

No person shall stand or park any truck (or other vehicle used or equipped to be used for a commercial purpose) upon a street at any time except for the minimum period required in the usual course of business for making delivery of or loading merchandise for delivery.

**351.11 BUS STOPS AND TAXICAB STANDS -- NO PARKING.**

(a) 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 posted, 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 such zone, and then only for a period not to exceed 3 minutes, if such stopping is not prohibited by posted signs.

(b) The operator of a bus shall not stop, stand or park such vehicle upon any street at any place (for the purpose of loading or unloading passengers or their baggage) other than at a bus stop so designated and posted as such, except in case of an emergency. This provision does not apply to school buses.

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

(d) The operator of a taxicab shall not stand or park such vehicle upon any street at any place other than in a taxicab stand so designated and posted as such. This provision shall not prevent the operator of a taxicab from temporarily stopping in accordance with other stopping or parking provisions at any place for the purpose of and while actually engaged in the expeditious loading or unloading of passengers.

#### **351.12 PARKING IN ALLEYS AND NARROW STREETS; EXCEPTIONS.**

No person shall stop, stand or park any vehicle upon a street, other than an alley, in such a manner or under such conditions as to leave available less than 10 feet of the width of the roadway for free movement of vehicular traffic, except that a driver may stop temporarily during the actual loading or unloading of passengers or when directed to by a police officer or traffic control signal.

Except as otherwise provided by law, no person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle within an alley except while actually loading and unloading, and then only for a period of not to exceed 30 minutes.

#### **351.13 MOVING FROM ONE PARKING SPACE TO ANOTHER.**

No person shall move a motor vehicle from a parking space on any street where parking is restricted to a limited period of time, directly to, or for the purpose of moving it to, another parking space (within one block or 500 feet of the first parking space, whichever is greater) on the same street or on any other street on which parking of vehicles is restricted to a limited period of time, and there allow such motor vehicle to remain parked for a period of time longer than the unexpired parking time remaining in the original parking space.

#### **351.14 EMERGENCY STREET REPAIRS.**

(a) Whenever an emergency condition requires emergency repairs to be made on any street, portion of street or to any utilities in, over or along any street, and the City Manager determines that such condition requires such street or portion of street be cleared and caused to remain clear of parked vehicles, the City Manager is authorized to designate such area as a "no parking area," until such emergency condition is eliminated, by the placing of appropriate signs to such effect along such street or portion of street.

No owner or operator of any vehicle shall permit it to park or stand upon any such street or portion of street within such area designated for no parking.

(b) If any vehicle is found parked in violation of the provisions of subsection (a) hereof, a police officer shall remove such vehicle or cause the same to be removed as provided in Section 303.08.

#### **351.15 18-HOUR PARKING LIMIT.**

No person shall park a motor vehicle on the streets of the city in excess of 18 consecutive hours.

Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to permit parking of motor vehicles where or when prohibited by other sections of the Codified Ordinances of the city, by statutes of the state, or by traffic regulations issued by the City Manager under Section 305.03.

#### **351.16 OVERSIZED VEHICLE PARKED ON RESIDENTIAL STREETS -- 4-HOUR LIMIT.**

(a) For the purpose of this section, an "oversized vehicle" is defined as any trailer, boat, camper or self-propelled vehicle which at any point exceeds any of the following dimensions: 7 feet wide, or 20 feet long, or 7 feet high measured from ground level plus an additional 1½ feet of height for accessories, but no antenna shall be measured in determining such height.

(b) No person shall park an oversized vehicle for more than 4 consecutive hours on the residential area of any street of this City.

(c) For the purpose of this section, the term "residential area" shall mean that portion of a street which is part of, or which abuts on either side, a residential zoning district.

(d) The prohibitions of this section shall not apply to parking that is necessary in connection with delivering or picking up furniture or other materials in such residential district or in connection with construction, development, installation or repair work in such residential district and for which any required permits have been obtained.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to permit parking where otherwise prohibited by other sections of the Codified Ordinances of this City, by the statutes of the State of Ohio, or by traffic regulations issued by the City Manager under Section 305.03. (Ord. 3103. Passed 10-15-79.)

#### **351.17 TRAILERS, TOWED VEHICLES PARKED ON STREETS, LIMITED HOURS.**

(a) No trailer nor any other vehicle intended to be towed behind a motor vehicle may be parked for more than 4 consecutive hours on the residential area of any street of this City unless it is attached to such motor vehicle.

(b) No trailer nor any other vehicle intended to be towed behind a motor vehicle may be parked upon any street after sundown and before sunrise, whether or not attached to such a motor vehicle, unless such trailer or other vehicle is equipped with at least two reflectors or two operating lights and in an area sufficiently lighted so as to make it visible at a distance of 300 feet.

(c) No trailer nor other vehicle may be parked upon any street, while not attached to a motor vehicle, unless at least one wheel on each side has been chocked both in front and behind such wheel.

(d) For the purpose of this section, the term "residential area" shall mean that portion of a street which is part of, or which abuts on either side, a residential zoning district.

(e) The prohibition of this section shall not apply to parking that is necessary in connection with delivering or picking up furniture or other materials in such residential district or in connection with construction, development, installation or repair work in such residential district for which any required permits have been obtained. (Ord. 3294. Passed 10-4-82; Ord. 3608. Passed 12-8-86.)

#### **351.18 TRAILERS, TOWED VEHICLES PARKED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, WHEELS CHOCKED.**

No trailer nor any other vehicle intended to be towed behind a motor vehicle may be parked upon any private property, while not attached to such motor vehicle, unless at least one wheel on each side has been chocked to keep it from moving toward the adjoining street. (Ord. 3609. Passed 12-8-86.)



**351.19 PARKING PROHIBITIONS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

If an owner of private property posts on that property, in a conspicuous manner, a prohibition against parking there or conditions and regulations under which parking is permitted on that property, no person shall do either of the following:

- (a) Park a vehicle on the property without the owner's consent; or
- (b) Park a vehicle on the property in violation of any conditional regulation posted by the owner. (Cross reference: ORC 4513.60, Notice Requirements for Private Tow-Away Zones.)

**351.20 PARKING FOR HANDICAPPED PERSON.**

(a) Special parking locations and privileges for persons with disabilities that limit or impair the ability to walk, also known as handicapped parking spaces or disability parking spaces shall be provided and designated by the Municipality and all agencies and instrumentalities thereof at all offices and facilities, where parking is provided, whether owned, rented or leased, and at all publicly owned parking garages. The locations shall be designated through the posting of an elevated sign, whether permanently affixed or movable, imprinted with the international symbol of access and shall be reasonably close to exits, entrances, elevators and ramps. All elevated signs posted in accordance with this subsection and Ohio R.C. 3781.111 (C) shall be mounted on a fixed or movable post, and the distance from the ground to the top edge of the sign shall measure five feet. If a new sign or a replacement sign designating a special parking location is posted on or after October 14, 1999, there also shall be affixed upon the surface of that sign or affixed next to the designating sign a notice that states the fine applicable for the offense of parking a motor vehicle in the special designated parking location if the motor vehicle is not legally entitled to be parked in that location.

- (b) (1) A. No person shall stop, stand or park any motor vehicle at special parking locations provided under subsection (e) hereof, or at special clearly marked parking locations provided in or on privately owned parking lots, parking garages, or other parking areas and designated in accordance with subsection (e) hereof, unless one of the following applies:
  - 1. The motor vehicle is being operated by or for the transport of a person with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk and is displaying a valid removable windshield placard or special license plates;
  - 2. The motor vehicle is being operated by or for the transport of a handicapped person and is displaying a parking card or special handicapped license plates.
- B. Any motor vehicle that is parked in a special marked parking location in violation of subsection (b)(1)A. of this section may be towed or otherwise removed from the parking location by the Police Department. A motor vehicle that is so towed or removed shall not be released to its owner until the owner presents proof of ownership of the motor vehicle and pays all towing and storage fees normally imposed by the Municipality for towing and storing motor vehicles. If the motor vehicle is a leased vehicle, it shall not be released to the lessee until the lessee presents proof that that person is the lessee of the motor vehicle and pays all towing and storage fees normally imposed by the Municipality for towing and storing motor vehicles.

- C. If a person is charged with a violation of subsection (b)(1)A. of this section, it is an affirmative defense to the charge that the person suffered an injury not more than seventy-two hours prior to the time the person was issued the ticket or citation and that, because of the injury, the person meets at least one of the criteria contained in Ohio R.C. 4503.44(A)(1).
- (2) No person shall stop, stand or park any motor vehicle in an area that is commonly known as an access aisle, which area is marked by diagonal stripes and is located immediately adjacent to a special parking location provided under subsection (e) of this section or at a special clearly marked parking location provided in or on a privately owned parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area and designated in accordance with that subsection.

(c) When a motor vehicle is being operated by or for the transport of a person with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk and is displaying a removable windshield placard or a temporary removable windshield placard or special license plates, or when a motor vehicle is being operated by or for the transport of a handicapped person and is displaying a parking card or special handicapped license plates, the motor vehicle is permitted to park for a period of two hours in excess of the legal parking period permitted by local authorities, except where local ordinances or police rules provide otherwise or where the vehicle is parked in such a manner as to be clearly a traffic hazard.

- (d) As used in this section:
- (1) "Handicapped person" means any person who has lost the use of one or both legs, or one or both arms, who is blind, deaf or so severely handicapped as to be unable to move without the aid of crutches or a wheelchair, or whose mobility is restricted by a permanent cardiovascular, pulmonary or other handicapping condition.
- (2) "Person with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk" has the same meaning as in Ohio R.C. 4503.44.
- (3) "Special license plates" and "removable windshield placard" mean any license plates or removable windshield placard or temporary removable windshield placard issued under Ohio R.C. 4503.41 or 4503.44, and also mean any substantially similar license plates or removable windshield placard or temporary removable windshield placard issued by a state, district, country or sovereignty. (ORC 4511.69)

### **351.21 FIRE LANES, PARKING PROHIBITED.**

(a) The City Manager, upon the advice of the director of public safety of this city and/or under the provisions of the Fire Code of this City, is hereby authorized to establish fire lanes upon public ways or upon private property regularly used by vehicular traffic. In addition, the City Manager may adopt rules and regulations pertaining to those fire lanes pursuant to his authority to adopt traffic regulations under Section 305.03.

(b) No person shall stop, stand, or park any vehicle within an area designated as a fire lane as referred to in paragraph (a) above, other than an emergency or public safety vehicle in connection with some form of fire duty.

(c) Whenever a police officer finds a vehicle unattended in any fire lane designated as referred to in paragraph (a) above, the officer may provide for the removal of such vehicle under the provisions of Section 303.08.

**351.22 PAYMENT OF FINE WITHOUT COURT APPEARANCE.**

Any person who is issued a traffic ticket for a violation of any section of this chapter for which a fine is provided may pay that fine in the manner described on the traffic ticket. Such payment shall be deemed a plea of guilty, waiver of court appearance and acknowledgement of conviction of the alleged violation. Payment of the fine need not be accepted when laws or ordinances prescribe that a certain number of offenses shall require court appearance. (Ord. 4480. Passed 1-15-01.)

**351.99 PENALTY.**

(a) Whoever violates any provision of Sections 351.03 through 351.07 or of Section 351.13 shall be fined not more than \$30.00 if payment is made within 72 hours of the date and time of the issuance of the citation for the parking violation. If payment is not made within 72 hours of the date and time of the issuance of the citation, the fine shall be \$60.00.

(b) Whoever violates Section 351.20(b)(1) shall be fined \$250.00. An offender who violates Section 351.20(b)(1) of this section shall be fined not more than \$100.00 if the offender, prior to sentencing, proves either of the following to the satisfaction of the court:

- (1) At the time of the violation of Section 351.20(b)(1) of this chapter, the offender or the person for whose transport the motor vehicle was being operated had been issued a removable windshield placard that then was valid or special license plates that then were valid but the offender or the person neglected to display the placard or license plates as described in Section 351.20(b)(1)A. of this chapter.
- (2) At the time of the violation of Section 351.20(b)(1) of this chapter, the offender or the person for whose transport the motor vehicle was being operated had been issued a parking card that then was valid or special handicapped license plates that then were valid but the offender or the person neglected to display the card or license plates as described in Section 351.20(b)(1)B. of this chapter.

(c) Unless a different penalty is provided elsewhere in this chapter, whoever violates any other section of this chapter shall be fined not more than \$150.00. (Ord. 4739. Passed 11-7-11.)



**TITLE NINE - Pedestrians, Bicycles and Motorcycles**

Chap. 371. Pedestrians.

Chap. 373. Bicycles.

Chap. 375. Motorcycles, Motor Bicycles, Snowmobiles,  
and Other Miscellaneous Vehicles.

**CHAPTER 371  
Pedestrians**

<b>371.01</b>	<b>Right of way in crosswalk.</b>	<b>371.07</b>	<b>Right of way on sidewalk.</b>
<b>371.02</b>	<b>Right of way of blind person.</b>	<b>371.08</b>	<b>Yielding to public safety vehicle.</b>
<b>371.03</b>	<b>Crossing roadway outside crosswalk; diagonal crossings at intersections.</b>	<b>371.09</b>	<b>Walking on highway while under the influence.</b>
<b>371.04</b>	<b>Moving upon right half of crosswalk.</b>	<b>371.10</b>	<b>On bridges or railroad crossings.</b>
<b>371.05</b>	<b>Pedestrians walking, running on streets.</b>	<b>371.11</b>	<b>Persons operating motorized wheelchairs.</b>
<b>371.06</b>	<b>Use of highway for soliciting; riding on outside of vehicles.</b>	<b>371.12</b>	<b>Electric personal assistive mobility devices.</b>

**CROSS REFERENCES**

See sectional histories for similar State law

Pedestrian defined - see TRAF. 301.22

Pedestrian prohibited on freeways - see TRAF. 303.06

Obedience to traffic control devices - see TRAF.

313.01, 313.03

Pedestrian control signals - see TRAF. 313.05

**371.01 RIGHT OF WAY IN CROSSWALK.**

(a) When traffic control signals are not in place, not in operation or are not clearly assigning the right of way, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield or if required by Section 313.09, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.

(b) No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.

(c) Subsection (a) hereof does not apply under the conditions stated in Section 371.03(b).

(d) Whenever any vehicle is stopped at a marked crosswalk or at any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.46)

### **371.02 RIGHT OF WAY OF BLIND PERSON.**

(a) As used in this section "blind person" or "blind pedestrian" means a person having not more than 20/200 visual acuity in the better eye with correcting lenses or visual acuity greater than 20/200 but with a limitation in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than twenty degrees.

The driver of every vehicle shall yield the right of way to every blind pedestrian guided by a guide dog, or carrying a cane which is predominately white or metallic in color, with or without a red tip.

(b) No person, other than a blind person, while on any public highway, street, alley or other public thoroughfare shall carry a white metallic cane, with or without a red tip.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.47)

### **371.03 CROSSING ROADWAY OUTSIDE CROSSWALK; DIAGONAL CROSSINGS AT INTERSECTIONS.**

(a) Every pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right of way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

(b) Any pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided shall yield the right of way to all traffic upon the roadway.

(c) Between adjacent intersections at which traffic control signals are in operation, pedestrians shall not cross at any place except in a marked crosswalk.

(d) No pedestrian shall cross a roadway intersection diagonally unless authorized by official traffic control devices; and, when authorized to cross diagonally, pedestrians shall cross only in accordance with the official traffic control devices pertaining to such crossing movements.

(e) This section does not relieve the operator of a vehicle from exercising due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian upon any roadway.

(f) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.48)

#### **371.04 MOVING UPON RIGHT HALF OF CROSSWALK.**

(a) Pedestrians shall move, whenever practicable, upon the right half of crosswalks.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.49)

#### **371.05 PEDESTRIANS WALKING, RUNNING ON STREETS.**

(a) It shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to walk, jog or run upon the roadway portion (excepting any crosswalks) of any of the following streets:

- (1) Far Hills Avenue from the north corporate limits to the south corporate limits of this City;
- (2) Schantz Avenue from Oakwood Avenue to the west corporate limits of this City;
- (3) Patterson Road from its terminus at Far Hills Avenue to the east corporate limits of this City;
- (4) Shroyer Road from the north corporate limits to the south corporate limits of this City; and
- (5) Oakwood Avenue from its intersection with Far Hills Avenue to the north corporate limits of this City.

(b) Whether or not a sidewalk is provided and whether or not its use is practicable, any pedestrian may walk, jog or run along any non-crosswalk portion of a roadway except those prohibited in (a) above, but only in compliance with the following conditions:

- (1) Every pedestrian must proceed as close as practicable to the curb to his or her left and must face vehicular traffic using the side of the roadway adjacent to that curb.
- (2) All pedestrians must proceed in single file when traffic is approaching from either the front or the rear, subject to the exception that such a single file need be maintained on divided highways only when traffic is approaching from the front of the pedestrians.
- (3) Except as otherwise provided in Section 313.03 (relating to rights-of-way at intersections controlled by traffic lights) and in Section 371.01 (pedestrian on crosswalk has right-of-way), every pedestrian upon a roadway shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles.

- (4) During the time from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise, and at any other times when there are unfavorable atmospheric conditions (including insufficient natural light) which prevent persons from being discernable clearly at a distance of 300 feet, every pedestrian shall either:
- A. Wear between neck and waist material such as a vest, sash band, or tape which is reflectorized so as to be discernable clearly at night at a distance of 300 feet; or
  - B. Vacate the non-crosswalk roadway immediately upon the approach of a vehicle from the front of the pedestrian, and also vacate such roadway at any intersection or driveway where a vehicle is approaching the roadway, in each instance remaining off such roadway until the vehicle has passed the pedestrian (or vice-versa).

(c) Regardless of compliance with the above conditions, no pedestrian may walk, jog or run along any roadway if such conduct would tend to endanger (because of traffic conditions, snow or ice on the roadway, or because of the grade, layout or visibility situation of the roadway) any persons or property in the use of such roadway. (Cross reference: See ORC 4511.50.) (Ord. 3123. Passed 3-17-80.)

(d) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

### **371.06 USE OF HIGHWAY FOR SOLICITING; RIDING ON OUTSIDE OF VEHICLES.**

(a) No person while on a roadway outside a safety zone shall solicit a ride from the driver of any vehicle.

(b) No person shall stand on the roadway portion of any street in the business district, or on any portion of the street right-of-way in any other zone (except for selling newspapers), for the purpose of soliciting employment, business, or contributions from the occupant of any vehicle. (See Business Regulations 725.01 and 725.02 for same rule.)

(c) No person shall hang onto or ride on the outside of any motor vehicle while it is moving upon a roadway, except mechanics or test engineers making repairs or adjustments.

(d) No operator shall knowingly permit any person to hang onto or ride on the outside of any motor vehicle while it is moving upon a roadway, except mechanics or test engineers making repairs or adjustment.

(e) No driver of a truck shall permit any person to ride in the cargo storage area or on a tailgate of his vehicle while the tailgate is unlatched. This does not apply to street maintenance workers under authority of, or a contract with, the City.

(f) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.



**371.07 RIGHT OF WAY ON SIDEWALK.**

(a) The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way to any pedestrian on a sidewalk.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.441)

**371.08 YIELDING TO PUBLIC SAFETY VEHICLE.**

(a) Upon the immediate approach of a public safety vehicle as stated in Section 331.21, every pedestrian shall yield the right of way to the public safety vehicle.

(b) This section shall not relieve the driver of a public safety vehicle from the duty to exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.452)

**371.09 WALKING ON HIGHWAY WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE.**

(a) A pedestrian who is under the influence of alcohol, any drug of abuse, or any combination of them, to a degree that renders the pedestrian a hazard shall not walk or be upon a highway.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.481)

**371.10 ON BRIDGES OR RAILROAD CROSSINGS.**

(a) No pedestrian shall enter or remain upon any bridge or approach thereto beyond the bridge signal, gate or barrier after a bridge operation signal indication has been given.

(b) No pedestrian shall pass through, around, over or under any crossing gate or barrier at a railroad grade crossing or bridge while the gate or barrier is closed or is being opened or closed.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.511)

### **371.11 PERSONS OPERATING MOTORIZED WHEELCHAIRS.**

(a) Every person operating a motorized wheelchair shall have all of the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian that are contained in this Traffic Code, except those provisions which by their nature can have no application. (ORC 4511.491)

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.99)

### **371.12 ELECTRIC PERSONAL ASSISTIVE MOBILITY DEVICES.**

- (a) (1) Electric personal assistive mobility devices may be operated on the public streets, highways, sidewalks, and paths and portions of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles in accordance with this section.
- (2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, those sections of this Traffic Code that by their nature are applicable to an electric personal assistive mobility device apply to the device and the person operating it whenever it is operated upon any public street, highway, sidewalk, or path or upon any portion of a roadway set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.
- (b) No operator of an electric personal assistive mobility device shall do any of the following:
- (1) Fail to yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians and human-powered vehicles at all times;
  - (2) Fail to give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian;
  - (3) Operate the device at night unless the device or its operator is equipped with or wearing both of the following:
    - A. A lamp pointing to the front that emits a white light visible from a distance of not less than five hundred feet;
    - B. A red reflector facing the rear that is visible from all distances from one hundred feet to six hundred feet when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle.
  - (4) Operate the device on any portion of a street or highway that has an established speed limit of fifty-five miles per hour or more;

- (5) Operate the device upon any path set aside for the exclusive use of pedestrians or other specialized use when an appropriate sign giving notice of the specialized use is posted on the path;
- (6) If under eighteen years of age, operate the device unless wearing a protective helmet on the person's head with the chin strap properly fastened;
- (7) If under sixteen years of age, operate the device unless, during the operation, the person is under the direct visual and audible supervision of another person who is eighteen years of age or older and is responsible for the immediate care of the person under sixteen years of age.

(c) No person who is under fourteen years of age shall operate an electric personal assistive mobility device.

(d) No person shall distribute or sell an electric personal assistive mobility device unless the device is accompanied by a written statement that is substantially equivalent to the following: "WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY, USE ONLY WHILE WEARING FULL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT - HELMET, WRIST GUARDS, ELBOW PADS, AND KNEE PADS". (ORC 4511.512)

(e) "Electric personal assistive mobility device" means a self-balancing two non-tandem wheeled device that is designed to transport only one person, has an electric propulsion system of an average of seven hundred fifty watts, and when ridden on a paved level surface by an operator who weighs one hundred seventy pounds has a maximum speed of less than twenty miles per hour. (ORC 4501.01)

(f) Whoever violates subsection (b) or (c) hereof is guilty of a minor misdemeanor and shall be punished as follows:

- (1) The offender shall be fined ten dollars (\$10.00).
- (2) If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of division (B) or (C) of Ohio R.C. 4511.512 or a substantially similar municipal ordinance, the court, in addition to imposing the fine required under subsection (f)(1) hereof, shall do one of the following:
  - A. Order the impoundment for not less than one day but not more than thirty days of the electric personal assistive mobility device that was involved in the current violation of that section. The court shall order the device to be impounded at a safe indoor location designated by the court and may assess storage fees of not more than five dollars (\$5.00) per day, provided the total storage, processing, and release fees assessed against the offender or the device in connection with the device's impoundment or subsequent release shall not exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00).
  - B. If the court does not issue an impoundment order pursuant to subsection (f)(2)A. hereof, issue an order prohibiting the offender from operating any electric personal assistive mobility device on the public streets, highways, sidewalks, and paths and portions of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles for not less than one day but not more than thirty days.

(g) Whoever violates subsection (d) hereof is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. (ORC 4511.512)



**CHAPTER 373**  
**Bicycles**

<p><b>373.01</b> Code application to bicycles.</p> <p><b>373.02</b> Riding upon seats; handle bars; helmets and glasses.</p> <p><b>373.03</b> Attaching bicycle, skates or sled to vehicle.</p> <p><b>373.04</b> Riding bicycles abreast.</p> <p><b>373.05</b> Signal device; siren on bicycle.</p> <p><b>373.06</b> Light and reflector; brakes.</p>	<p><b>373.07</b> Riding on right side of roadway; traffic control devices; hand and arm signals; yield right-of-way.</p> <p><b>373.08</b> Reckless operation; control, course and speed.</p> <p><b>373.09</b> Parking of bicycle.</p> <p><b>373.10</b> Impounding by police; lost bicycles.</p> <p><b>373.11</b> Electric bicycles.</p>
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

Bicycle defined -- see TRAF. 301.04

Motor bicycles, motor scooters and motorcycles -- see TRAF. Ch. 375

**373.01 CODE APPLICATION TO BICYCLES.**

(a) The provisions of this Traffic Code that are applicable to bicycles and electric bicycles apply whenever a bicycle or electric bicycle is operated upon any street or upon any path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a bicycle operator or electric bicycle operator who violates any section of this Traffic Code described in subsection (a) of this section that is applicable to bicycles or electric bicycles may be issued a ticket, citation or summons by a law enforcement officer for the violation in the same manner as the operator of a motor vehicle would be cited for the same violation. A person who commits any such violation while operating a bicycle or electric bicycle shall not have any points assessed against the person's driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary instruction permit, or probationary license under Ohio R.C. 4510.036.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, in the case of a violation of any section of this Traffic Code described in subsection (a) of this section by a bicycle operator, electric bicycle operator, or motor vehicle operator when the trier of fact finds that the violation by the motor vehicle operator endangered the lives of bicycle riders or electric bicycle riders at the time of the violation, the court, notwithstanding any provision of this Traffic Code to the contrary, may require the bicycle operator, electric bicycle operator or motor vehicle operator to take and successfully complete a bicycling skills course approved by the court in addition to or in lieu of any penalty otherwise prescribed by the Traffic Code for that violation.

(d) Subsections (b) and (c) of this section do not apply to violations of Section 333.01 of this Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.52)

(e) The provisions of this Traffic Code shall apply to bicycles and electric bicycles except those which by their nature are not applicable.

**373.02 RIDING UPON SEATS; HANDLEBARS; HELMETS AND GLASSES.**

(a) For purposes of this section "snowmobile" has the same meaning as given that term in Ohio R.C. 4519.01.

(b) No person operating a bicycle or electric bicycle shall ride other than upon or astride the permanent and regular seat attached thereto, or carry any other person upon such bicycle or electric bicycle other than upon a firmly attached and regular seat thereon, and no person shall ride upon a bicycle or electric bicycle other than upon such a firmly attached and regular seat.

(c) No person operating a motorcycle shall ride other than upon or astride the permanent and regular seat or saddle attached thereto, or carry any other person upon such motorcycle other than upon a firmly attached and regular seat or saddle thereon, and no person shall ride upon a motorcycle other than upon such a firmly attached and regular seat or saddle.

(d) No person shall ride upon a motorcycle that is equipped with a saddle other than while sitting astride the saddle, facing forward, with one leg on each side of the motorcycle.

(e) No person shall ride upon a motorcycle that is equipped with a seat other than while sitting upon the seat.

(f) No person operating a bicycle or electric bicycle shall carry any package, bundle or article that prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand upon the handlebars.

(g) No bicycle, electric bicycle, or motorcycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped. No motorcycle shall be operated on a highway when the handlebars rise higher than the shoulders of the operator when the operator is seated in the operator's seat or saddle.

- (h) (1) Except as provided in subsection (h)(2) of this section, no person shall operate or be a passenger on a snowmobile or motorcycle without using safety glasses or other protective eye device. Except as provided in subsection (i)(3) of this section, no person who is under the age of eighteen years, or who holds a motorcycle operator's endorsement or license bearing "novice" designation that is currently in effect as provided in Ohio R.C. 4507.13, shall operate a motorcycle on a highway, or be a passenger on a motorcycle, unless wearing a United States Department of Transportation-approved protective helmet on the person's head, and no other person shall be a passenger on a motorcycle operated by such a person unless similarly wearing a protective helmet. The helmet, safety glasses or other protective eye device shall conform with rules adopted by the Ohio Director of Public Safety. The provisions of this subsection or a violation thereof shall not be used in the trial of any civil action.
- (2) Subsection (h)(1) of this section does not apply to a person operating an autocycle or cab-enclosed motorcycle when the occupant compartment top is in place enclosing the occupants.

- (i) (1) No person shall operate a motorcycle with a valid temporary permit and temporary instruction permit identification card issued by the Ohio Registrar of Motor Vehicles pursuant to Ohio R.C. 4507.05 unless the person, at the time of such operation, is wearing on the person's head a protective helmet that has been approved by the United States Department of Transportation that conforms with rules adopted by the Director.
- (2) No person shall operate a motorcycle with a valid temporary instruction permit and temporary instruction permit identification card issued by the Registrar pursuant to Ohio R.C. 4507.05 in any of the following circumstances:
  - A. At any time when lighted lights are required by Section 337.02(a)(1);
  - B. While carrying a passenger;
  - C. On any limited access highway or heavily congested roadway.

(j) Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the carrying of a child in a seat or trailer that is designed for carrying children and is firmly attached to the bicycle or electric bicycle.

(k) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.53)

### **373.03 ATTACHING BICYCLE, SKATES OR SLED TO VEHICLE.**

(a) No person riding upon any motorcycle, bicycle, electric bicycle, coaster, roller skates, sled, skateboard or toy vehicle shall attach the same or self to any vehicle upon a roadway.

No operator shall knowingly permit any person riding upon any motorcycle, bicycle, electric bicycle, coaster, roller skates, sled, skateboard or toy vehicle to attach the same or self to any vehicle while it is moving upon a roadway. This section does not apply to the towing of a disabled vehicle.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.54)

### **373.04 RIDING BICYCLES ABREAST.**

(a) Every person operating a bicycle or electric bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, obeying all traffic rules applicable to vehicles and exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

(b) Person riding bicycles or electric bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast in a single lane, except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles or electric bicycles.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.55)

### **373.05 SIGNAL DEVICE ON BICYCLE.**

(a) A bicycle or electric bicycle may be equipped with a device capable of giving an audible signal, except that a bicycle or electric bicycle shall not be equipped with nor shall any person use upon a bicycle or electric bicycle any siren or whistle.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.56)

### **373.06 LIGHTS AND REFLECTOR ON BICYCLE; BRAKES.**

(a) Every bicycle or electric bicycle when in use at the times specified in Section 337.02, shall be equipped with the following:

- (1) A lamp mounted on the front of either the bicycle or electric bicycle or the operator that shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet to the front; and three hundred feet to the sides. A generator-powered lamp that emits light only when the bicycle or electric bicycle is moving may be used to meet this requirement.
- (2) A red reflector on the rear that shall be visible from all distances from one hundred feet to six hundred feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle.
- (3) A lamp emitting either flashing or steady red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear shall be used in addition to the red reflector;

If the red lamp performs as a reflector in that it is visible as specified in subsection (a)(2) of this section, the red lamp may serve as the reflector and a separate reflector is not required.

(b) Additional lamps and reflectors may be used in addition to those required under subsection (a) of this section, except that red lamps and red reflectors shall not be used on the front of the bicycle or electric bicycle and white lamps and white reflectors shall not be used on the rear of the bicycle or electric bicycle.

(c) Every bicycle shall be equipped with an adequate brake when used on a street or highway.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever



violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. (ORC 4511.56)

**373.07 RIDING ON RIGHT SIDE OF ROADWAY; TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES; HAND AND ARM SIGNALS; YIELD RIGHT-OF-WAY.**

- (a) Any person operating a bicycle or electric bicycle shall:
- (1) Obey the instructions of official traffic control devices applicable to vehicles, unless otherwise directed by a police officer;
  - (2) Before changing course, turning or stopping upon a roadway, exercise due care that the movement can be made with reasonable safety and give the hand and arm signals required by Section 331.15.
  - (3) Yield the right-of-way to pedestrian and vehicular traffic upon the roadway as lawfully required;
  - (4) Yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian upon a sidewalk;
  - (5) Give timely and audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian upon a roadway or sidewalk.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

If the offender commits the offense while distracted and the distracting activity is a contributing factor to the commission of the offense, the offender is subject to the additional fine established under Section 303.991 of the Traffic Code. (ORC 4511.55(A))

**373.08 RECKLESS OPERATION; CONTROL, COURSE AND SPEED.**

- (a) No person shall operate a bicycle or electric bicycle:
- (1) Without due regard for the safety and rights of pedestrians and drivers and occupants of all other vehicles, and so as to endanger the life, limb or property of any person while in the lawful use of the streets or sidewalks or any other public or private property;
  - (2) Without exercising reasonable and ordinary control over such bicycle;
  - (3) In a weaving or zigzag course unless such irregular course is necessary for safe operation in compliance with law;
  - (4) Without both hands upon the handle grips except when necessary to give the required hand and arm signals, or as provided in Section 373.02(d);
  - (5) At a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**373.09 PARKING OF BICYCLE.**

(a) No person shall park a bicycle or electric bicycle upon a sidewalk in such a manner so as to unduly interfere with pedestrian traffic or upon a roadway so as to unduly interfere with vehicular traffic.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

### **373.10 IMPOUNDING BY POLICE; LOST BICYCLES.**

If the operator of any bicycle violates any of the provisions of this chapter, such bicycle shall be immediately taken and impounded by the Division of Police and shall be held for a period, not exceeding ten days, to be determined by the Chief of Police.

In the event any lost bicycle is found, the Division of Police shall take possession of such bicycle and hold it for disposition as provided in the chapter of the Administrative Code dealing with disposal of property.

### **373.11 ELECTRIC BICYCLES.**

- (a) (1) The operation of a class 1 electric bicycle and a class 2 electric bicycle is permitted on a path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles or on a shared-use path, unless the Municipality by resolution, ordinance, or rule prohibits the use of a class 1 electric bicycle or class 2 electric bicycle on such a path.
- (2) No person shall operate a class 3 electric bicycle on a path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles or a shared-use path unless that path is within or adjacent to a highway or the Municipality by resolution, ordinance, or rule authorizes the use of a class 3 electric bicycle on such a path.
- (3) No person shall operate a class 1 electric bicycle, a class 2 electric bicycle or a class 3 electric bicycle on a path that is intended to be used primarily for mountain biking, hiking, equestrian use, or other similar uses, or any other single track or natural surface trail that has historically been reserved for nonmotorized use, unless the Municipality by resolution, ordinance or rule authorizes the use of a class 1 electric bicycle, a class 2 electric bicycle, or a class 3 electric bicycle on such a path.
- (b) (1) No person under sixteen years of age shall operate a class 3 electric bicycle; however, a person under sixteen years of age may ride as a passenger on a class 3 electric bicycle that is designed to accommodate passengers.
- (2) No person shall operate or be a passenger on a class 3 electric bicycle unless the person is wearing a protective helmet that meets the standards established by the Consumer Product Safety Commission or the American Society for Testing and Materials.
- (c) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, whoever operates an electric bicycle in a manner that is prohibited under subsection (a) of this section and whoever violates subsection (b) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to one predicate motor vehicle or traffic offense, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If, within one year of the offense, the offender previously has been convicted of two or more predicate motor vehicle or traffic offenses, whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

- (2) The offenses established under subsection (c)(1) of this section are strict liability offenses and strict liability is a culpable mental state for purposes of Ohio R.C. 2901.20. The designation of these offenses as strict liability offenses shall not be construed to imply that any other offense, for which there is no specified degree of culpability, is not a strict liability offense. (ORC 4511.522)



**CHAPTER 375**  
**Motorcycles, Motorized Bicycles, Snowmobiles and Other Miscellaneous Vehicles**

<b>375.01</b> Crash helmets, safety equipment, for motorcycles. <b>375.02</b> Safety glasses for snowmobiles. <b>375.03</b> Riding upon motorcycles or motorized bicycles. <b>375.04</b> Seat belts. <b>375.05</b> Height of motorcycle or motorized bicycle. <b>375.06</b> Riding motorcycles or motorized bicycles.	<b>375.07</b> Motorized bicycle operation, equipment and license. <b>375.08</b> Miscellaneous motorized bicycle riding regulations. <b>375.09</b> Low-speed vehicles, under-speed vehicles, utility vehicles and mini-trucks. <b>375.10</b> Shared mobility devices. <b>375.99</b> Penalty.
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**CROSS REFERENCES**

Motorcycle defined -- see TRAF. 301.19.  
 Motorcycle muffler -- see TRAF. 337.20.  
 Motorcycle mirror -- see TRAF. 337.21.  
 Motorcycle headlight -- see TRAF. 337.03.  
 Motorcycle brakes -- see TRAF. 337.18.  
 Bicycles -- see TRAF. Ch. 373.

**375.01 CRASH HELMETS, SAFETY EQUIPMENT, FOR MOTORCYCLES.**

(a) No person shall operate or be a passenger on a motorcycle without using safety glasses or other protective eye device. No person who is under the age of 18 years, or who holds a motorcycle operator's endorsement or license bearing a "novice" designation that is currently in effect as provided in Section 4507.13 of the Revised Code, shall operate a motorcycle on a highway, or be a passenger on a motorcycle, unless wearing a protective helmet on his head. No other person shall be a passenger on a motorcycle operated by such a person unless similarly wearing a protective helmet. The helmet, safety glasses, or other protective eye device shall conform with regulations prescribed and promulgated by the Director of Public Safety. The provisions of this paragraph or a violation thereof shall not be used in the trial of any civil action. (Ord. 3052. Passed 7-10-78.)

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**375.02 SAFETY GLASSES FOR SNOWMOBILES.**

(a) No person shall operate or be a passenger on a snowmobile without using safety glasses, or other protective eye device, conforming with regulations issued by the State Director of Public Safety.

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

#### **375.03 RIDING UPON MOTORCYCLES OR MOTORIZED BICYCLES.**

(a) A person operating a motorcycle or motorized bicycle shall not ride other than upon the permanent and regular seat attached thereto, nor carry any other person upon such motorcycle other than upon a firmly attached and regular seat thereon, nor shall any person ride upon a motorcycle or motorized bicycle other than upon such a firmly attached and regular seat.

(b) A person shall ride upon a motorcycle or motorized bicycle only while sitting astride the seat, facing forward, with one leg on each side of the vehicle.

(c) No motorcycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.

(d) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

#### **375.04 SEAT BELTS.**

(a) Every motor powered vehicle with more than two wheels and less than 32 inches high, without a roof and without metal doors or other metal sides enclosing the driver and passenger areas, shall be equipped with usable seat belts for the driver and for each passenger.

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

#### **375.05 HEIGHT OF MOTORCYCLE OR MOTORIZED BICYCLE.**

(a) No motorcycle nor motorized bicycle shall be operated on a highway when the handle bars or grips are more than 15 inches higher than the seat or saddle for the operator.

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

#### **375.06 RIDING MOTORCYCLES OR MOTORIZED BICYCLES.**

(a) Persons riding motorcycles or motorized bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast in a single lane, except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of such vehicles.

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**375.07 MOTORIZED BICYCLE OPERATION, EQUIPMENT AND LICENSE.**

(a) No person shall operate a motorized bicycle upon any street or highway or any public or private property used by the public for purposes of vehicular travel or parking, unless all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The person is fourteen or fifteen years of age and holds a valid probationary motorized bicycle license issued after the person has passed the test provided for in Ohio R.C. 4511.521, or the person is sixteen years of age or older and holds either a valid commercial driver's license issued under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4506, or a driver's license issued under Ohio R.C. Chapter 4507, or a valid motorized bicycle license issued after the person has passed the test provided for in Ohio R.C. 4511.521, except that if a person is sixteen years of age, has a valid probationary motorized bicycle license and desires a motorized bicycle license, the person is not required to comply with the testing requirements provided for in Ohio R.C. 4511.521;
- (2) The motorized bicycle is equipped in accordance with rules adopted by the Ohio Director of Public Safety and is in proper working order;
- (3) The person, if under eighteen years of age, is wearing a protective helmet on the person's head with the chin strap properly fastened, and the motorized bicycle is equipped with a rear-view mirror;
- (4) The person operates the motorized bicycle when practicable within three feet of the right edge of the roadway obeying all traffic rules applicable to vehicles; and
- (5) The motorized bicycle displays on the rear of such bicycle the current license plate or validation sticker furnished by the Ohio Director of Public Safety under Ohio R.C. 4503.191.

(b) No person operating a motorized bicycle shall carry another person upon the motorized bicycle.

(c) Each probationary motorized bicycle license or motorized bicycle license shall be laminated with a transparent plastic material.

(d) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.  
(ORC 4511.521)

**375.08 MISCELLANEOUS MOTORIZED BICYCLE RIDING REGULATIONS.**

(a) The following riding regulations shall apply to motorized bicycles:

- (1) No person shall operate a motorized bicycle upon a sidewalk, other than that part of a sidewalk which constitutes a driveway approach connecting a private driveway to the adjacent public street.
- (2) No person riding a motorized bicycle shall attach that vehicle or himself to any other vehicle while it is moving upon a roadway. No operator of another motor vehicle shall knowingly permit any person riding upon any motorized bicycle to attach it or himself to that vehicle while it is moving upon a roadway.

- (3) Operators of motorized bicycles shall comply with all right-of-way, reckless operation and all other requirements of this Traffic Code (and of ORC 4511 and 4513) relating to motor vehicles.

(b) Whoever violates any provision of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on a second offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree; on each subsequent offense within one year after the first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

**375.09 LOW-SPEED VEHICLES, UNDER-SPEED VEHICLES, UTILITY VEHICLES, AND MINI-TRUCKS.**

Low-speed vehicles, under-speed vehicles, utility vehicles, and mini-trucks may be operated on public streets within the city of Oakwood, subject to the following requirements:

- (a) Inspection Required. Any person wishing to operate a low-speed vehicle, under-speed vehicle, utility vehicle, or mini-truck on public streets of the City of Oakwood shall first submit the vehicle to an inspection conducted by the Oakwood Public Safety Department that complies with inspection requirements established under Section 4513.02 of the Ohio Revised Code. The purpose of the inspection is to confirm that the vehicle is properly equipped as set forth in subsection (d) below. Upon satisfactory inspection, the Director of Public Safety or his/her designee shall issue a certificate of compliance to the vehicle owner. No person shall operate a low-speed vehicle, under-speed vehicle, utility vehicle, or mini-truck on public streets of the City of Oakwood without successfully passing the required vehicle inspection and obtaining a certificate of compliance.
- (b) Title and Registration. No person shall operate a low-speed vehicle, under-speed vehicle, utility vehicle, or mini-truck on public streets of the City of Oakwood without obtaining a valid title and registration for said vehicle in accordance with Chapters 4503 and 4505 of the Ohio Revised Code. No person who is the owner or operator of a low-speed vehicle, under-speed vehicle, utility vehicle, or mini-truck shall fail to display proper license plates, in plain view on the front and rear of said vehicle, bearing the distinctive registration number and marks assigned to such vehicle, including any required county identification sticker and validation sticker.
- (c) Operator's License and Insurance. No person shall operate a low-speed vehicle, under-speed vehicle, utility vehicle, or mini-truck on public streets of the City of Oakwood unless the person is at least sixteen years of age and possesses both a valid driver's license and proof of current liability insurance coverage for the vehicle. (For purposes of this subsection, the applicable minimum insurance thresholds shall be those established by the State of Ohio for the operation of a motor vehicle under Section 4509.01(K) of the Ohio Revised Code, as the same may be amended from time to time.)
- (d) No Operation Without Required Equipment. No person shall operate a low-speed vehicle, under-speed vehicle, utility vehicle, or mini-truck on public streets of the City of Oakwood if said vehicle is not fully equipped as required by Chapter 4513 of the Ohio Revised Code and, in the case of low-speed vehicles only, as required by 49 CFR 571.500 (Standard No. 500).



- (e) Permitted and Prohibited Streets. Except for mini-trucks, operation is limited to public streets having an established speed limit not greater than twenty-five miles per hour. Operators are permitted to cross an intersection with a street having a greater speed limit, so long as they remain on a street with an established speed limit not greater than twenty-five miles per hour.
- (f) Sidewalk Operation Prohibited. Operation on sidewalks is prohibited, other than the incidental crossing of a sidewalk while entering or exiting any driveway.
- (g) Applicability of Motor Vehicle Laws. Except as expressly provided in this section, all state and local laws regulating the operation and parking of motor vehicles shall be deemed to apply to the operation and parking of low-speed vehicles, under-speed vehicles, utility vehicles, and mini-trucks within the City of Oakwood.
- (h) Exception for Certain City Vehicles. The requirements of Section 375.09 shall not apply to scooters or other utility vehicles operated by city employees in the performance of refuse collection duties.  
(Ord. 4876. Passed 1-7-19.)

### **375.10 SHARED MOBILITY DEVICES.**

(a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to prohibit Shared Mobility Devices from being placed in the public right-of-way or on public property, operated in the public right-of-way or on public property, or offered for use anywhere in the City, so as to allow for adequate vehicle and pedestrian traffic flow and to promote public safety.

(b) Definition. For purposes of this section, "Shared Mobility Device" means any wheeled device, other than an automobile or motorcycle, that is powered by a motor; is accessed via an on-demand portal, whether a smartphone application, membership card, or similar method; is operated by a private entity that owns, manages, and maintains devices for shared use by members of the public; and is available to members of the public in unstaffed, self-service locations.

(c) Prohibitions.

- (1) No person shall park, leave standing, leave lying, abandon, or otherwise place a shared mobility device in a public right-of-way or on public property anywhere within the City.
- (2) No person shall operate a shared mobility device in a public right-of-way or on public property anywhere within the City.
- (3) No person shall provide or offer for use a shared mobility device anywhere within the City.

(d) Violations.

- (1) Violation of this section shall be punishable as an unclassified misdemeanor. In addition, any violation of Section 375.10(c)(3) shall constitute a public nuisance, and the Law Director is authorized to file for injunctive and/or other relief on the city's behalf as necessary to abate the nuisance.

- (2) Public Safety Officers, Code Enforcement Officers, other city officials designated by the City Manager, and any party contracted by the City to specifically impound shared mobility devices are authorized to impound any shared mobility device that has been offered for use, placed in a public right-of-way or on public property, or operated in a public right-of-way or on public property in violation of this Section. Impounded devices shall be subject to impound and storage fees established by the City Manager in the same manner as other city fees.

(e) Sunset Provision. This section shall remain in full force and effect until August 14, 2020, at which time it shall become ineffective and shall be removed from the Codified Ordinances of the City of Oakwood, Ohio, unless Council acts to readopt or otherwise continue the provisions herein.  
(Ord. 4886. Passed 7-15-19.)



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