



House Bill No. 6746

Public Act No. 23-51

AN ACT CONCERNING WRONG-WAY DRIVING DETECTION AND PREVENTION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) For the purposes of this section, (1) "wrong-way driving detection and notification system" means a system capable of alerting a motor vehicle operator with the use of flashing lights when such operator is driving in the wrong direction and notifying a law enforcement unit when a wrong-way operator is detected, and (2) "law enforcement unit" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

(b) The Department of Transportation shall expand efforts to implement wrong-way driving countermeasures throughout the state. Such efforts shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) The installation of wrong-way driving detection and notification systems on at least one hundred twenty highway exit ramps that the department determines are at high risk for motor vehicle operators driving in the wrong direction; and (2) a public awareness campaign to educate the public concerning ways to reduce incidents of operators driving in the wrong direction and actions to take when an operator encounters a motor vehicle being operated in the wrong direction.

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Sec. 2. Section 14-36f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, governing the establishment, conduct and scope of driver education programs in secondary schools of this state, subject to the requirements of section 14-36e. Such regulations shall (1) permit any local or regional board of education or private secondary school to contract with a licensed drivers' school approved by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for the behind-the-wheel instruction of such driver education program and instruction therein may be given by such school's driving instructors who are licensed by the Department of Motor Vehicles, (2) require that the classroom instruction of any such driver education program include (A) a discussion concerning highway work zone safety and the responsibilities of an operator of a motor vehicle under section 14-212d, and (B) a discussion concerning ways to reduce incidents of operators driving in the wrong direction and actions to take when an operator encounters a motor vehicle being operated in the wrong direction, and (3) except for instruction offered pursuant to section 14-36j, permit a class or classroom instruction to be offered in person in a congregate setting, through distance learning or through a combination of both in-person and distance learning, provided such distance learning has interactive components such as mandatory interactions, participation or testing.

Sec. 3. Section 14-78 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, regarding the conduct of drivers' schools and instructor license requirements. Such regulations shall (1) establish the conduct of drivers' schools, including, but not limited to, (A) requirements as to the inspection of the vehicles used by the drivers'

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schools in the conduct of their business, (B) instructional standards and procedures, including instruction of not less than fifteen minutes concerning the responsibilities of an operator of a motor vehicle under subsection (b) of section 14-223 and the penalty for a violation of the provisions of said subsection, instruction concerning highway work zone safety and the responsibilities of an operator of a motor vehicle under section 14-212d, and instruction concerning ways to reduce incidents of operators driving in the wrong direction and actions to take when an operator encounters a motor vehicle being operated in the wrong direction, (C) the administration of a test at the conclusion of each class, (D) the posting of rates charged for instruction, and (E) the general form in which records concerning persons under instruction and those who have completed their course of instruction shall be kept and, when required, the method of transmission to the commissioner, (2) except as required pursuant to section 14-36j, permit a class or classroom instruction to be offered in person in a congregate setting, through distance learning or through a combination of both in-person and distance learning, provided such distance learning has interactive components such as mandatory interactions, participation or testing, and (3) establish the requirements for a person to receive a license as an instructor in accordance with section 14-73. On and after October 1, 2010, the commissioner shall not issue a license that is limited to classroom instruction. Any person who was issued such limited license prior to October 1, 2010, may maintain and renew such license.

Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this section, (1) "wrong-way driving detection, notification and broadcasting system" means a system capable of (A) alerting a motor vehicle operator with the use of flashing lights when such operator is driving in the wrong direction, (B) notifying a law enforcement unit when a wrong-way operator is detected, and (C) broadcasting the presence of a wrong-way operator on electronic message boards along the highway, and (2) "law enforcement unit" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-294a

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of the general statutes.

(b) The Department of Transportation shall establish a pilot program to test the use of wrong-way driving detection, notification and broadcasting systems at highway exit ramps that the department determines are appropriate and at high risk for motor vehicle operators driving in the wrong direction. Not later than January 1, 2025, the department shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, concerning the results of the pilot program and any recommendations for the broader use of such systems throughout the state to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation.

Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Transportation shall provide a grant from available resources for implementing wrong-way driving countermeasures to The University of Connecticut for the purposes of testing and analyzing the use of directional rumble strips in such a manner as to alert a motor vehicle operator through vibration and sound that the operator is driving a motor vehicle in the wrong direction. Not later than January 1, 2025, the department shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, concerning the results of such testing and any recommendations for the installation of directional rumble strips throughout the state to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation.