

## TITLE 15

### MOTOR VEHICLES, TRAFFIC AND PARKING<sup>1</sup>

#### CHAPTER

1. MISCELLANEOUS.
2. EMERGENCY VEHICLES.
3. SPEED LIMITS.
4. TURNING MOVEMENTS.
5. STOPPING AND YIELDING.
6. PARKING.
7. ENFORCEMENT.
8. AUTOMATED TRAFFIC SIGNAL ENFORCEMENT AND SPEED DETECTION SYSTEMS.

#### CHAPTER 1

#### MISCELLANEOUS<sup>2</sup>

#### SECTION

- 15-101. Motor vehicle requirements.
- 15-102. Driving on streets closed for repairs, etc.
- 15-103. One-way streets.
- 15-104. Unlaned streets.
- 15-105. Laned streets.
- 15-106. Yellow lines.
- 15-107. Miscellaneous traffic-control signs, etc.
- 15-108. General requirements for traffic-control signs, etc.
- 15-109. Unauthorized traffic-control signs, etc.
- 15-110. Presumption with respect to traffic-control signs, etc.

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal code references

Excavations and obstructions in streets, etc.: title 16.  
Junk vehicles: title 13, chapter 3.

<sup>2</sup>State law references

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

- 15-111. School safety patrols.
- 15-112. Driving through funerals or other processions.
- 15-113. Clinging to vehicles in motion.
- 15-114. Riding on outside of vehicles.
- 15-115. Backing vehicles.
- 15-116. Projections from the rear of vehicles.
- 15-117. Causing unnecessary noise.
- 15-118. Vehicles and operators to be licensed.
- 15-119. Passing.
- 15-120. Damaging pavements.
- 15-121. Motorcycles and motor-driven cycles.
- 15-122. Motor vehicle registration.
- 15-123. Adoption of state traffic statutes.

**15-101. Motor vehicle requirements.** It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any motor vehicle within the corporate limits unless such vehicle is equipped with properly operating muffler, lights, brakes, horn, and such other equipment as is prescribed and required by Tennessee Code Annotated, title 55, chapter 9. (1995 Code, § 15-101)

**15-102. Driving on streets closed for repairs, etc.** Except for necessary access to property abutting thereon, no motor vehicle shall be driven upon any street that is barricaded or closed for repairs or other lawful purpose. (1995 Code, § 15-102)

**15-103. One-way streets.** On any street for one-way traffic with posted signs indicating the authorized direction of travel at all intersections offering access thereto, no person shall operate any vehicle except in the indicated direction. (1995 Code, § 15-104)

**15-104. Unlaned streets.** (1) Upon all unlaned streets of sufficient width, a vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the street except:

(a) When lawfully overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.

(b) When the right half of a roadway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair.

(c) Upon a roadway designated and signposted by the city for one-way traffic.

(2) All vehicles proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn. (1995 Code, § 15-105)

**15-105. Laned streets.** On streets marked with traffic lanes, it shall be unlawful for the operator of any vehicle to fail or refuse to keep his vehicle within the boundaries of the proper lane for his direction of travel except when lawfully passing another vehicle or preparatory to making a lawful turning movement.

On two (2) lane and three (3) lane streets, the proper lane for travel shall be the right hand lane unless otherwise clearly marked. On streets with four (4) or more lanes, either of the right hand lanes shall be available for use except that traffic moving at less than the normal rate of speed shall use the extreme right hand lane. On one-way streets either lane may be lawfully used in the absence of markings to the contrary. (1995 Code, § 15-106)

**15-106. Yellow lines.** On streets with a yellow line placed to the right of any lane line or center line, such yellow line shall designate a no-passing zone, and no operator shall drive his vehicle or any part thereof across or to the left of such yellow line except when necessary to make a lawful left turn from such street. (1995 Code, § 15-107)

**15-107. Miscellaneous traffic-control signs, etc.**<sup>1</sup> It shall be unlawful for any pedestrian or the operator of any vehicle to violate or fail to comply with any traffic-control sign, signal, marking, or device placed or erected by the state or the city unless otherwise directed by a police officer.

It shall be unlawful for any pedestrian or the operator of any vehicle to willfully violate or fail to comply with the reasonable directions of any police officer. (1995 Code, § 15-108)

**15-108. General requirements for traffic-control signs, etc.** All traffic-control signs, signals, markings, and devices shall conform to the latest revision of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways,<sup>2</sup> published by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and shall, so far as practicable, be uniform as to type and location throughout the city. (1995 Code, § 15-109, modified)

**15-109. Unauthorized traffic-control signs, etc.** No person shall place, maintain, or display upon or in view of any street, any unauthorized sign, signal, marking, or device which purports to be or is an imitation of or resembles an official traffic-control sign, signal, marking, or device or railroad sign or

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal code references

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

<sup>2</sup>This manual may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

signal, or which attempts to control the movement of traffic or parking of vehicles, or which hides from view or interferes with the effectiveness of any official traffic-control sign, signal, marking, or device or any railroad sign or signal. (1995 Code, § 15-110)

**15-110. Presumption with respect to traffic-control signs, etc.**

When a traffic-control sign, signal, marking, or device has been placed, the presumption shall be that it is official and that it has been lawfully placed by the proper authority. (1995 Code, § 15-111)

**15-111. School safety patrols.** All motorists and pedestrians shall obey the directions or signals of school safety patrols when such patrols are assigned under the authority of the chief of police and are acting in accordance with instructions; provided, that such persons giving any order, signal, or direction shall at the time be wearing some insignia and/or using authorized flags for giving signals. (1995 Code, § 15-112)

**15-112. Driving through funerals or other processions.** Except when otherwise directed by a police officer, no driver of a vehicle shall drive between the vehicles comprising a funeral or other authorized procession while they are in motion and when such vehicles are conspicuously designated. (1995 Code, § 15-113)

**15-113. Clinging to vehicles in motion.** It shall be unlawful for any person traveling upon any bicycle, motorcycle, coaster, sled, roller skates, or any other vehicle to cling to, or attach himself or his vehicle to any other moving vehicle upon any street, alley, or other public way or place. (1995 Code, § 15-114)

**15-114. Riding on outside of vehicles.** It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, or for the owner or operator of any motor vehicle being operated on a street, alley, or other public way or place to permit any person to ride on any portion of such vehicle not designed or intended for the use of passengers. This section shall not apply to persons engaged in the necessary discharge of lawful duties nor to persons riding in the load-carrying space of trucks. (1995 Code, § 15-115)

**15-115. Backing vehicles.** The driver of a vehicle shall not back the same unless such movement can be made with reasonable safety and without interfering with other traffic. (1995 Code, § 15-116)

**15-116. Projections from the rear of vehicles.** Whenever the load or any projecting portion of any vehicle shall extend beyond the rear of the bed or body thereof, the operator shall display at the end of such load or projection, in

such position as to be clearly visible from the rear of such vehicle, a red flag being not less than twelve inches (12") square. Between one-half (1/2) hour after sunset and one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise, there shall be displayed in place of the flag a red light plainly visible under normal atmospheric conditions at least two hundred feet (200') from the rear of such vehicle. (1995 Code, § 15-117)

**15-117. Causing unnecessary noise.** It shall be unlawful for any person to cause unnecessary noise by unnecessarily sounding the horn, "racing" the motor, or causing the "screeching" or "squealing" of the tires on any motor vehicle. (1995 Code, § 15-118)

**15-118. Vehicles and operators to be licensed.** It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in violation of the "Tennessee Motor Vehicle Title and Registration Law" or the "Uniform Motor Vehicle Operators' and Chauffeurs' License Law." (1995 Code, § 15-119)

**15-119. Passing.** Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of a vehicle passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left thereof at a safe distance and shall not again drive to the right side of the street until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle. The driver of the overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal and shall not increase the speed of his vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

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

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

No person shall drive off the pavement or upon the shoulder of the street in overtaking or passing on the right. When any vehicle has stopped at a marked crosswalk or at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the street, no operator of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall overtake and pass such stopped vehicle.

No vehicle operator shall attempt to pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless he can see that the way ahead is sufficiently clear and unobstructed to enable him to make the movement in safety. (1995 Code, § 15-120)

**15-120. Damaging pavements.** No person shall operate upon any street of the city any vehicle, motor propelled or otherwise, which by reason of

its weight or the character of its wheels or track is likely to damage the surface or foundation of the street. (1995 Code, § 15-121)

**15-121. Motorcycles and motor-driven cycles.** (1) Every person riding or operating a bicycle, motorcycle, or motor driven cycle shall be subject to the provisions of all traffic ordinances, rules, and regulations of the city applicable to the driver or operator of other vehicles except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application to bicycles, motorcycles, or motor driven cycles.

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

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

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

(5) No person under the age of sixteen (16) years shall operate any motorcycle, motorbike, or motor driven cycle while any other person is a passenger upon said motor vehicle.

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

(7) Every motorcycle or motor driven cycle operated upon any public way within the corporate limits shall be equipped with a windshield of a type approved by the state's commissioner of safety, or, in the alternative, the operator and any passenger on any such motorcycle or motor driven cycle shall be required to wear safety goggles of a type approved by the state's commissioner of safety for the purpose of preventing any flying object from striking the operator or any passenger in the eyes.

(8) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or ride on any vehicle in violation of this section, and it shall also be unlawful for any parent or guardian knowingly to permit any minor to operate a motorcycle or motor driven cycle in violation of this section. (1995 Code, § 15-122)

**15-122. Motor vehicle registration.** (1) Every motor vehicle owned by any person, firm, or corporation who is a resident of the City of McKenzie, Tennessee, and all motor vehicles owned or used by any person, firm, or corporation who is a resident of the City of McKenzie, Tennessee shall be registered with the City of McKenzie, as hereinafter provided, prior to the use of any such motor vehicle upon the highways, streets, avenues, or alleys within

the corporate limits of the City of McKenzie and if a sticker is issued, it shall be affixed to the lower left hand corner of the rear license plate.

(2) All owners or operators of motor vehicles to which this section is applicable shall register the same on or before the first day of April annually and pay a registration fee of ten dollars (\$10.00). Such registration shall be renewed and the registration fee paid on or before the fifteenth day of April annually hereafter.

(3) When a motor vehicle is registered, as required by the provisions of this section, the city clerk shall obtain the name and address of the owner, and a full description of the motor vehicle, including the make, model, type, motor number and state license number. A record of this information shall be kept by the city clerk and he shall issue to the owner or operator of such vehicle a duplicate of such record which shall also show the amount of the registration fee paid, the time paid, and the number of the tag, emblem, or sticker issued to the owner or operator. The city clerk shall issue to the owner or operator of each motor vehicle registered a tag, sticker, or decal transfer, which shall bear a serial number, and the same shall be firmly attached to said motor vehicle. If a decal transfer is issued, it shall be firmly attached to the lower right hand portion of the windshield so that the same may be readily observed upon the inspection thereof.

(4) Any owner or operator of a motor vehicle subject to the provisions of this section who shall fail, neglect, or refuse to register such motor vehicle, or who shall fail, neglect, or refuse to pay the registration fee herein imposed, or who shall fail, neglect, or refuse to have the tag, sticker, decal transfer, or evidence of his registration thereof attached to the vehicle to which this section is applicable, as herein provided, and who shall operate the motor vehicle subject to the provisions of this section without registration and paying the fee, as herein provided, or who shall in any manner violate any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction shall be fined under the general penalty clause for this code.

(5) The words "motor vehicle" as used herein, shall mean any vehicle propelled by its own power, provided that this section shall not apply to motor vehicles owned by the State of Tennessee, the County of Carroll, or the United States Government, or any agency thereof. (1995 Code, § 15-123)

**15-123. Adoption of state traffic statutes.** By the authority granted under Tennessee Code Annotated § 16-18-302, and Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-307, the City of McKenzie adopts by reference as if fully set forth in this section, the "Rules of the Road," as codified in Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 55-8-101 through 55-8-131, §§ 55-8-133 through 55-8-150, and §§ 55-8-152 through 55-8-180. Additionally, the City of McKenzie adopts Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 55-8-181 through 55-8-193, §§ 55-9-601 through 55-9-606, § 55-12-139, and § 55-21-108 by reference as if fully set forth in this section.

## CHAPTER 2

### EMERGENCY VEHICLES

#### SECTION

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

**15-201. Authorized emergency vehicles defined.** Authorized emergency vehicles shall be fire department vehicles, police vehicles, and such ambulances and other emergency vehicles as are designated by the chief of police. (1995 Code, § 15-201)

**15-202. Operation of authorized emergency vehicles.** (1) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, subject to the conditions herein stated.

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

(3) The exemptions herein granted for an authorized emergency vehicle shall apply only when the driver of any such vehicle while in motion sounds an audible signal by bell, siren, or exhaust whistle and when the vehicle is equipped with at least one (1) lighted lamp displaying a red light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred feet (500') to the front of such vehicle, except that an authorized emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle need not be equipped with or display a red light visible from in front of the vehicle.

(4) The foregoing provisions shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others. (1995 Code, § 15-202)



**15-203. Following emergency vehicles.** No driver of any vehicle shall follow any authorized emergency vehicle apparently travelling in response to an emergency call closer than five hundred feet (500') or drive or park such vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm. (1995 Code, § 15-203)

**15-204. Running over fire hoses, etc.** It shall be unlawful for any person to drive over any hose lines or other equipment of the fire department except in obedience to the direction of a fireman or policeman. (1995 Code, § 15-204)

## CHAPTER 3

### SPEED LIMITS

#### SECTION

- 15-301. In general.
- 15-302. At intersections.
- 15-303. In school zones.
- 15-304. In congested areas.

**15-301. In general.** It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle upon any highway or street at a rate of speed in excess of thirty (30) miles per hour except where official signs have been posted indicating other speed limits, in which cases the posted speed limit shall apply. (1995 Code, § 15-301)

**15-302. At intersections.** It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle through any intersection at a rate of speed in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour unless such person is driving on a street regulated by traffic-control signals or signs which require traffic to stop or yield on the intersecting streets. (1995 Code, § 15-302)

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

In school zones where the city council has not established special speed limits as provided for above, any person who shall drive at a speed exceeding fifteen (15) miles per hour when passing a school during a recess period when a warning flasher or flashers are in operation, or during a period of ninety (90) minutes before the opening hour of a school or a period of ninety (90) minutes after the closing hour of a school, while children are actually going to or leaving school, shall be prima facie guilty of reckless driving. (1995 Code, § 15-303, modified)

**15-304. In congested areas.** It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle through any congested area at a rate of speed in excess of any posted speed limit when such speed limit has been posted by authority of the city. (1995 Code, § 15-304)

## CHAPTER 4

**TURNING MOVEMENTS****SECTION**

15-401. Generally.

15-402. Right turns.

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

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

15-405. U-turns.

**15-401. Generally.** No person operating a motor vehicle shall make any turning movement which might affect any pedestrian or the operation of any other vehicle without first ascertaining that such movement can be made in safety and signaling his intention in accordance with the requirements of the state law.<sup>1</sup> (1995 Code, § 15-401)

**15-402. Right turns.** Both the approach for a right turn and a right turn shall be made as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway. (1995 Code, § 15-402)

**15-403. Left turns on two-way roadways.** At any intersection where traffic is permitted to move in both directions on each roadway entering the intersection, an approach for a left turn shall be made in that portion of the right half of the roadway nearest the center lines thereof and by passing to the right of the intersection of the center lines of the two (2) roadways. (1995 Code, § 15-403)

**15-404. Left turns on other than two-way roadways.** At any intersection where traffic is restricted to one direction on one or more of the roadways, the driver of a vehicle intending to turn left at any such intersection shall approach the intersection in the extreme left hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the direction of travel of 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 lawfully available to traffic moving in such direction upon the roadway being entered. (1995 Code, § 15-404)

**15-405. U-turns.** U-turns are prohibited. (1995 Code, § 15-405)

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

**CHAPTER 5****STOPPING AND YIELDING****SECTION**

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

**15-501. When emerging from alleys, etc.** The drivers of all vehicles emerging from alleys, parking lots, driveways, or buildings shall stop such vehicles immediately prior to driving onto any sidewalk or street. They shall not proceed to drive onto the sidewalk or street until they can safely do so without colliding or interfering with approaching pedestrians or vehicles. (1995 Code, § 15-502)

**15-502. To prevent obstructing an intersection.** No driver shall enter any intersection or marked crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of such intersection or crosswalk to accommodate the vehicle he is operating without obstructing the passage of traffic in or on the intersecting street or crosswalk. This provision shall be effective notwithstanding any traffic-control signal indication to proceed. (1995 Code, § 15-503)

**15-503. At railroad crossings.** Any driver of a vehicle approaching a railroad grade crossing shall stop within not less than fifteen feet (15') from the nearest rail of such railroad and shall not proceed further while any of the following conditions exist:

- (1) A clearly visible electrical or mechanical signal device gives warning of the approach of a railroad train.
- (2) A crossing gate is lowered or a human flagman signals the approach of a railroad train.
- (3) A railroad train is approaching within approximately one thousand five hundred feet (1,500') of the highway crossing and is emitting an audible signal indicating its approach.
- (4) An approaching railroad train is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to the crossing. (1995 Code, § 15-504)

**15-504. At "stop" signs.** The driver of a vehicle facing a "stop" sign shall bring his vehicle to a complete stop immediately before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if there is no crosswalk, then immediately before entering the intersection, and shall remain standing until he can proceed through the intersection in safety. (1995 Code, § 15-505)

**15-505. At "yield" signs.** The drivers of all vehicles shall yield the right of way to approaching vehicles before proceeding at all places where "yield" signs have been posted. (1995 Code, § 15-506)

**15-506 At traffic-control signals generally.** Traffic-control signals exhibiting the words "Go," "Caution," or "Stop," or exhibiting different colored lights successively one at a time, or with arrows, shall show the following colors only and shall apply to drivers of vehicles and pedestrians as follows:

(1) Green alone, or "Go":

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if none, then before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until green or "Go" is shown alone.

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

(4) Steady red with green arrow:

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

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

(5) In the event an official traffic-control signal is erected and maintained at a place other than an intersection, the provisions of this section shall be applicable except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application. Any stop required shall be made at a sign or marking on the pavement indicating where the stop shall be made, but in the absence of any such sign or marking the stop shall be made a vehicle length short of the signal. (1995 Code, § 15-507)

**15-507. At flashing traffic-control signals.** (1) Whenever an illuminated flashing red or yellow signal is used in a traffic sign or signal placed or erected in the city it shall require obedience by vehicular traffic as follows:

(a) **Flashing red (stop signal).** When a red lens is illuminated with intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles shall stop before entering the nearest crosswalk at an intersection or at a limit line when marked, or if none, then before entering the intersection, and the right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.

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

(2) This section shall not apply at railroad grade crossings. Conduct of drivers of vehicles approaching railroad grade crossings shall be governed by the rules set forth in § 15-504 of this code. (1995 Code, § 15-508)

**15-508. At pedestrian-control signals.** Wherever special pedestrian-control signals exhibiting the words "Walk" or "Wait" or "Don't Walk" have been placed or erected by the city, such signals shall apply as follows:

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

(2) **Wait or Don't Walk.** No pedestrian shall start to cross the roadway in the direction of such signal, but any pedestrian who has partially completed his crossing on the walk signal shall proceed to the nearest sidewalk or safety zone while the wait signal is showing. (1995 Code, § 15-509)

**15-509. Stops to be signaled.** No person operating a motor vehicle shall stop such vehicle, whether in obedience to a traffic sign or signal or otherwise, without first signaling his intention in accordance with the requirements of the state law,<sup>1</sup> except in an emergency. (1995 Code, § 15-510)

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

## CHAPTER 6

### PARKING

#### SECTION

- 15-601. Generally.
- 15-602. Angle parking.
- 15-603. Occupancy of more than one space.
- 15-604. Where prohibited.
- 15-605. Parking restrictions for trucks.
- 15-606. Loading and unloading zones.
- 15-607. Unlawful to occupy more than one parking space.
- 15-608. Presumption with respect to illegal parking.

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

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

Notwithstanding anything else in this code to the contrary, no person shall park or leave a vehicle parked on any public street or alley within the fire limits between the hours of 1:00 A.M. and 5:00 A.M. or on any other public street or alley for more than seventy-two (72) consecutive hours without the prior approval of the chief of police.

Furthermore, no person shall wash, grease, or work on any vehicle, except to make repairs necessitated by an emergency, while such vehicle is parked on a public street. (1995 Code, § 15-601)

**15-602. Angle parking.** On those streets which have been signed or marked by the city for angle parking, no person shall park or stand a vehicle other than at the angle indicated by such signs or markings. No person shall back a vehicle into such a parking space but shall park the vehicle with its front wheels next to the curb or edge of the street. No person shall angle park any vehicle which has a trailer attached thereto or which has a length in excess of twenty-four feet (24'). (1995 Code, § 15-602)

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

more than one (1) such space or protrudes beyond the official markings on the street or curb designating such space unless the vehicle is too large to be parked within a single designated space. (1995 Code, § 15-603)

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

- (1) On a sidewalk;
- (2) In front of a public or private driveway;
- (3) Within an intersection or within fifteen feet (15') thereof;
- (4) Within fifteen feet (15') of a fire hydrant;
- (5) Within a pedestrian crosswalk;
- (6) Within fifty feet (50') of a railroad crossing;
- (7) Within twenty feet (20') of the driveway entrance to any fire station, and on the side of the street opposite the entrance to any fire station within seventy-five feet (75') of the entrance;
- (8) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when other traffic would be obstructed;
- (9) On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street;
- (10) Upon any bridge;
- (11) Alongside any curb painted yellow or red by the city. (1995 Code, § 15-604)

**15-605. Parking restrictions for trucks.** It is unlawful to park, store, or maintain any vehicle of four (4) axles or more or vehicle containing hazardous, corrosive, or explosive material as defined by any statute, law, or regulation of the United States, State of Tennessee, Interstate Commerce Commission, or Public Service Commission of the State of Tennessee, within any area designated as R-1, R-2, or R-3, Residential Area by the McKenzie Regional Planning Commission for any period of time exceeding two (2) hours. (1995 Code, § 15-605)

**15-606. Loading and unloading zones.** No person shall park a vehicle for any purpose or period of time other than for the expeditious loading or unloading of passengers or merchandise in any place marked by the city as a loading and unloading zone. (1995 Code, § 15-606)

**15-607. Unlawful to occupy more than one parking space.** It shall be unlawful for the owner or operator of any vehicle to park or allow his vehicle to be parked across any line or marking designating a parking space or otherwise so that such vehicle is not entirely within the designated parking space; provided, however, that vehicles which are too large to park within one (1) space may be permitted to occupy two (2) adjoining spaces. (1995 Code, § 15-610, modified)



**15-608. Presumption with respect to illegal parking.** When any unoccupied vehicle is found parked in violation of any provision of this chapter, there shall be a prima facie presumption that the registered owner of the vehicle is responsible for such illegal parking. (1995 Code, § 15-613)

## CHAPTER 7

### ENFORCEMENT

#### SECTION

- 15-701. Issuance of traffic citations.
- 15-702. Deposit of driver's license in lieu of bail.
- 15-703. Failure to obey citation.
- 15-704. Illegal parking.
- 15-705. Impoundment of vehicles.
- 15-706. Disposal of abandoned motor vehicles.
- 15-707. Violation and penalty.

**15-701. Issuance of traffic citations.**<sup>1</sup> When a police officer halts a traffic violator other than for the purpose of giving a warning, and does not take such person into custody under arrest, he shall take the name, address, and operator's license number of said person, the license number of the motor vehicle involved, and such other pertinent information as may be necessary, and shall issue to him a written traffic citation containing a notice to answer to the charge against him in the city court at a specified time. The officer, upon receiving the written promise of the alleged violator to answer as specified in the citation, shall release such person from custody. It shall be unlawful for any alleged violator to give false or misleading information as to his name or address. (1995 Code, § 15-701)

**15-702. Deposit of driver's license in lieu of bail.** As authorized by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-50-801, any person who is given a traffic citation or is arrested on a warrant issued by the city court and who is lawfully in possession of a chauffeur's or operator's license therefor issued to him by the Tennessee Department of Safety, or under the driver licensing laws of any other state or territory or the District of Columbia, and who is charged with the violation of any municipal ordinance governing the operation of motor vehicles within the City of McKenzie, Tennessee, shall have the option of depositing his chauffeur's or operator's license with the officer or with the court demanding bail in lieu or any other security required for his appearance in court to answer the charge made. Whenever any person depositing his chauffeur's or operator's license as herein provided, either the officer or the court demanding bail and to whom such license is deposited, shall issue said person a receipt for said license upon a form approved or provided by the Tennessee Department of Safety. If the alleged offender fails to appear and answer to the charge filed against him

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference

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

then the clerk or judge of the city court shall thereafter forward to the Tennessee Department of Safety the license of such alleged offender as deposited in lieu of bail which shall be otherwise disposed of as provided by law. (1995 Code, § 15-702)

**15-703. Failure to obey citation.** It shall be unlawful for any person to violate his written promise to appear in court after giving said promise to an officer upon the issuance of a traffic citation, regardless of the disposition of the charge for which the citation was originally issued. (1995 Code, § 15-703)

**15-704. Illegal parking.** Whenever any motor vehicle without a driver is found parked or stopped in violation of any of the restrictions imposed by this code, the officer finding such vehicle shall take its license number and may take any other information displayed on the vehicle which may identify its user, and shall conspicuously affix to such vehicle a citation for the driver and/or owner to answer for the violation within ten (10) days during the hours and at a place specified in the citation. (1995 Code, § 15-704, modified)

**15-705. Impoundment of vehicles.** Members of the police department are hereby authorized, when reasonably necessary to prevent obstruction of traffic, to remove from the streets and impound any vehicle whose operator is arrested or any vehicle which is illegally parked, abandoned, or otherwise parked so as to constitute an obstruction or hazard to normal traffic. Any vehicle left parked on any street or alley for more than seventy-two (72) consecutive hours without permission from the chief of police shall be presumed to have been abandoned if the owner cannot be located after a reasonable investigation. Such an impounded vehicle shall be stored until the owner claims it, gives satisfactory evidence of ownership, and pays all applicable fines and costs. The fee for impounding a vehicle shall be five dollars (\$5.00) and a storage cost of one dollar (\$1.00) per day shall also be charged. (1995 Code, § 15-705)

**15-706. Disposal of abandoned motor vehicles.** "Abandoned motor vehicles," as defined in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-16-103, shall be impounded and disposed of by the police department in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 55-16-103 through 55-16-109. (1995 Code, § 15-706)

**15-707. Violation and penalty.** Any violation of this title shall be a civil offense punishable as follows: (1) Traffic citations. Traffic citations shall be punishable by a civil penalty up to fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each separate offense.

(2) Parking citations. (a) Other parking violations excluding handicapped parking. For other parking violations, excluding handicapped parking violations, the offender may similarly waive his

right to a judicial hearing and have the charges disposed of out of court, but the fines shall be three dollars (\$3.00) within ten (10) and five dollars (\$5.00) thereafter.

(b) Handicapped parking. Parking in a handicapped parking space shall be punished by a civil penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). (1995 Code, § 15-704, modified)

## CHAPTER 8

**AUTOMATED TRAFFIC SIGNAL ENFORCEMENT  
AND SPEED DETECTION SYSTEMS**

**SECTION**

- 15-801. Definitions.
- 15-802. Administration.
- 15-803. Offense.
- 15-804. Procedure.
- 15-805. Civil penalty.
- 15-806. Miscellaneous.

**15-801. Definitions.** The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning.

- (1) "Citations and warning notices" shall include:
  - (a) The name and address of the registered owner of the vehicle;
  - (b) The registration license plate number of the motor vehicle involved in the violation;
  - (c) The violation charged;
  - (d) The location of the violation;
  - (e) The date and time of the violation;
  - (f) A copy of the recorded image;
  - (g) The amount of the civil penalty imposed and the date by which the civil penalty should be paid;
  - (h) A signed statement by a member of the police department that, based on inspection of recorded images, the motor vehicle was being operated in violation of § 15-803;
  - (i) A statement that recorded images are evidence of a violation of § 15-803; and
  - (j) Information advising the person alleged to be liable under this section:
    - (i) Of the manner and time in which liability alleged in the citation occurred and that the citation may be contested in the McKenzie Municipal Court; and
    - (ii) Warning that failure to contest in the manner and time provided shall be deemed an admission of liability and that a default judgment may be entered thereon.
- (2) "In operation" means operating in good working condition.
- (3) "Recorded images" means images recorded by a traffic control photographic system:
  - (a) On:
    - (i) A photograph; or

- (ii) A microphotograph; or
- (ii) An electronic image; or
- (iv) A videotape; or
- (v) Any other medium; and

(b) At least one (1) image or portion of the image, clearly identifying the registration number of the motor vehicle.

(4) "Stop line" is a transverse white marking at an approach to an intersection that indicates a point behind which all vehicles must stop when so required by a traffic control sign, signal or device.

(5) "System location" is the approach to an intersection toward which a photographic, video or electronic camera is directed and is in operation.

(6) "Traffic control photographic system" is an electronic system consisting of a photographic, video or electronic camera and a vehicle sensor installed to work in conjunction with an official traffic control sign, signal or device and to automatically produce photographs, video or digital images of each vehicle violating a standard traffic control sign, signal or device and posted speed limits.

(7) "Vehicle owner" is the person identified by the Tennessee Department of Safety as the registered owner of a motor vehicle or a lessee of a motor vehicle under a lease of six (6) months or more. (Ord. #432, Oct. 2008)

**15-802. Administration.** (1) The McKenzie Police Department or an agent of the department shall administer the traffic control photographic and posted speed limit systems and shall maintain a list of system locations where traffic control photographic systems are installed with the exception of the portable speed control unit. The city may contract with third parties to perform ministerial and clerical functions.

(2) Any citation or warning for a violation of § 15-803 issued by an officer of the McKenzie Police Department at a system location shall be treated in the manner prescribed in this chapter.

(3) No third party contractor shall have the authority to issue citations and no citations shall be issued except upon the review of the photograph(s), digital and/or video images by the McKenzie Police Department. Upon review of such images by the McKenzie Police Department, on each case, and upon express approval for the issuance of a citation by the McKenzie Police Department, a third party contractor may perform ministerial and clerical functions of preparing, mailing, serving and/or processing citations.

(4) The city shall adopt procedures for the issuance of citations and warnings under this section. A citation or warning alleging that the violation of § 15-803 of this chapter occurred, sworn to or affirmed by officials or agents of the city, based on inspection of recorded images produced by a traffic control photographic system, shall be prima facie evidence of the facts contained therein and shall be admissible in any proceeding alleging a violation under this chapter. The citation or warning shall be forwarded by first-class mail

postmarked no later than thirty (30) days after the date of the alleged violation, to the vehicle owner's address as given on the motor vehicle registration records maintained by the State of Tennessee Department of Safety and other states' motor vehicle registration departments. Personal delivery to or personal service of process on the owner of the vehicle shall not be required.

(5) Signs to indicate the use of traffic control photographic systems shall be clearly posted. Signs to indicate the use of traffic control photographic systems shall be posted in advance of individual system locations and may be posted elsewhere in the city.

(6) The City of McKenzie shall have all necessary power and authority to contractually provide for the purchase, lease, and rental acquisition and/or to enter a service contract(s) so as to fully and necessarily implement the provisions of the traffic control photographic system authorized hereby. (Ord. #432, Oct. 2008)

**15-803. Offense.** It shall be unlawful for a vehicle to cross the stop line at a system location, in disregard or disobedience of the traffic control sign, signal or device at such location, posted speed limits on city streets or to otherwise violate any section of the McKenzie Municipal Code with respect to obedience to traffic lights, stop signs, speed limits or traffic signals.

The owner of a vehicle shall be responsible for a violation under this chapter, except as provided herein. When such owner provides evidence in accordance with the procedures set forth in § 15-804(2) that the vehicle was in the care, custody or control of another person at the time of the violation, the person who had the care, custody and control of the vehicle at the time of the violation shall be responsible. (Ord. #432, Oct. 2008)

**15-804. Procedure.** (1) A person who receives a citation or notice of violation under this chapter may:

(a) Pay the civil penalty, in accordance with instructions on the citation or notice; or

(b) Elect to contest the citation for alleged violation in a hearing before the City Judge of the McKenzie Municipal Court, in accordance with the instructions on the citation or notice.

(2) Liability under this chapter shall be determined based upon the preponderance of the evidence. The submission of a citation or notice of violation containing photographic, digital, or electronic images indicating a violation along with the name and address of the registered owner shall constitute prima facie proof that a violation occurred and that the registered owner is liable for the violation. Such proof may be rebutted by the following:

(a) Proof that the vehicle in the photograph or other image does not materially match the registration information. The indication of the wrong color on the registration information shall not be a material deviation;

(b) The registered owner furnishes to the city court, prior to the return date established on the citation or notice of violation, a sworn notarized affidavit or sworn statement under penalty of perjury, that the vehicle was under the care, custody or control of another person or entity at the time of the violation and accurately identifying the name and current address of the person who leased, rented or otherwise had possession and/or control of the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation; or

(c) The registered owner furnishes to the city court, prior to the return date established on the citation or notice of violation, a certified copy of a police report showing that the vehicle or the registration/license plates had been reported to the police as stolen prior to the time of the alleged violation or within a timely manner after the alleged theft occurred; or

(d) In the case of a commercial vehicle with a registered gross weight of ten thousand (10,000) pounds or more, a tractor vehicle, a trailer operated in combination with a tractor vehicle or a passenger bus, in order to demonstrate that said owner was not the violator, the owner shall send a statement under penalty of perjury by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the municipal court stating that the owner was not the operator and the person's name, address, and driver's license identification number who was operating the vehicle at the time of the violation.

(3) In the event the owner identifies, under penalty of perjury, a person or entity who had possession, care, custody and control of the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation, then the city shall issue a citation or notice of violation to the person or entity so identified. (Ord. #450, Oct. 2011)

**15-805. Civil penalty.** (1) Any violation of this chapter shall be deemed a civil violation for which a civil penalty of fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be assessed.

(2) Failure to pay the civil penalty by the designated date, or to appear in court to contest the citation on the designated date, or to otherwise provide the information in the manner required under § 15-804 shall be deemed an admission of liability and indebtedness to the City of McKenzie of fifty dollars (\$50.00) and shall result in the imposition of a judgment by default of fifty dollars (\$50.00) plus the assessment of court costs and litigation tax as otherwise provided for under the McKenzie Municipal Code and the statutes of the State of Tennessee for non-parking offenses. The city may collect said debt in the same manner as any other debt owed to the city.

(3) If the owner of the vehicle contests the citation or notice of violation and the court rules same is valid, then such judgment shall result in the imposition of a judgment of fifty dollars (\$50.00) plus the assessment of court costs and litigation tax as otherwise provided under the McKenzie Municipal



Code and the statutes of the State of Tennessee for non-parking offenses. The city may collect said debt in the same manner as any other debt owed to the city. (Ord. #450, Oct. 2011)

**15-806. Miscellaneous.** All recorded images generated by the traffic control photograph system and portable speed photographic system, including, but not limited to, photographs, electronic images, and videotape, shall be solely owned by the City of McKenzie. (Ord. #432, Oct. 2008)

