

## 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.

#### CHAPTER 1

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

#### SECTION

- 15-101. Adoption of state traffic statutes.  
 15-102.--15-122. Repealed.

**15-101. Adoption of state traffic statutes.** By the authority granted under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 16-18-302, the City of Ridgetop adopts by reference as if fully set forth in this section, the "Rules of the Road," as codified in Tennessee Code Annotated, §55-8-101 through § 55-8-131, and § 55-8-133 through § 55-8-180. Additionally, the City of Ridgetop adopts Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-181 through § 55-8-193, § 55-9-601 through § 55-9-606, and § 55-12-139, § 55-8-207 by reference as if fully set forth in this section. (1977

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal code reference

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

<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.

Code, § 9-101, as replaced by Ord. #2006-119, Jan. 2007, and Ord. #2018-102, May 2018 *Ch4\_5-21-19*)

**15-102.--15-122. Repealed.** (1977 Code, sections, as repealed by Ord. #2006-119, Jan. 2007)

## 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. (1977 Code, § 9-102)

**15-202. Operation of authorized emergency vehicles.**<sup>1</sup> (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 500 feet to the front of such vehicle, except that an authorized emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle need not be equipped with or display a red light visible from in front of the vehicle.

(4) The foregoing provisions shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others. (1977 Code, § 9-103)

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal code reference

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

**15-203. Following emergency vehicles.** No driver of any vehicle shall follow any authorized emergency vehicle apparently travelling in response to an emergency call closer than five hundred (500) feet or drive or park any vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm. (1977 Code, § 9-104)

**15-204. Running over fire hoses, etc.** It shall be unlawful for any person to drive over any hose lines or other equipment of the fire department except in obedience to the direction of a fireman or policeman. (1977 Code, § 9-105)

**CHAPTER 3****SPEED LIMITS****SECTION**

- 15-301. In general.
- 15-302. Exceptions to 30 M.P.H. speed limit.
- 15-303. At intersections.
- 15-304. In school zones.
- 15-305. 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. (1977 Code, § 9-201)

**15-302. Exceptions to 30 M.P.H. speed limit.** (1) It shall be unlawful for any person:

(a) To operate or drive a motor vehicle at a rate of speed in excess of forty (40) miles per hour upon U.S. Highway 41 beginning at the southern city limits and ending six hundred feet (600') north of its intersection with State Route 257;

(b) To operate or drive a motor vehicle at a rate of speed in excess of forty five (45) miles per hour upon U.S. Highway 41 beginning six hundred feet (600') north of its intersection with State Route 257 and ending at the northern city limits;

(c) To operate or drive a motor vehicle upon the following listed streets at a rate of speed in excess of twenty five (25) miles per hour:

- (i) Ash Drive
- (ii) Barwood Drive
- (iii) Carver Drive
- (iv) Cobb Street
- (v) Dogwood Drive
- (vi) Highland Avenue
- (vii) Knightengale Acres
- (viii) Lennox Avenue
- (ix) L & N Court
- (x) Lynn Circle
- (xi) Maplewood Drive
- (xii) O'Bryan Avenue
- (xiii) Red Oak Drive
- (xiv) Santa Fe Court
- (xv) Shedden Road

- (xvi) Station Drive
- (xvii) Southern Rail Drive
- (xviii) Tacoma Lane
- (xix) Tinnon Road
- (xx) Valley View Road

(2) **Signs.** All streets listed in this § 15-302 above shall be posted with uniform traffic speed signs indication the designated speed limit on each respective street. (as added by Ord. #99-87, March 1999, and replaced by Ord. #2009-104, Aug. 2009, and Ord. #2021-111, Nov. 2021 ***Ch5\_12-19-23***)

**15-303. 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. (1977 Code, § 9-202, as renumbered by Ord. #99-87, March 1999)

**15-304. In school zones.** It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle at a rate of speed in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour when passing school during recess or while children are going to or leaving school during its opening or closing hours. (1977 Code, § 9-203, as renumbered by Ord. #99-87, March 1999)

**15-305. 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. (1977 Code, § 9-204, as renumbered by Ord. #99-87, March 1999)

## 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> (1977 Code, § 9-301)

**15-402. Right turns.** Both the approach for a right turn and a right turn shall be made as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway. (1977 Code, § 9-302)

**15-403. Left turns on two-way roadways.** At any intersection where traffic is permitted to move in both directions on each roadway entering the intersection, an approach for a left turn shall be made in that portion of the right half of the roadway nearest the center line thereof and by passing to the right of the intersection of the center line of the two roadways. (1977 Code, § 9-303)

**15-404. Left turns on other than two-way roadways.** At any intersection where traffic is restricted to one direction on one or more of the roadways, the driver of a vehicle intending to turn left at any such intersection shall approach the intersection in the extreme left hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the direction of travel of 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. (1977 Code, § 9-304)

**15-405. U-turns.** U-turns are prohibited. (1977 Code, § 9-305)

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

## CHAPTER 5

### STOPPING AND YIELDING

#### SECTION

15-501. Upon approach of authorized emergency vehicles.

15-502. When emerging from alleys, etc.

15-503. To prevent obstructing an intersection.

15-504. At "stop" signs.

15-505. At "yield" signs.

15-506. Stops to be signaled.

**15-501. Upon approach of authorized emergency vehicles.**<sup>1</sup> Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle making use of audible and/or visual signals meeting the requirements of the laws of this state, the driver of every other vehicle shall immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the right hand edge or curb of the roadway clear of any intersection and shall stop and remain in such position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer. (1977 Code, § 9-401)

**15-502. When emerging from alleys, etc.** The drivers of all vehicles emerging from alleys, parking lots, driveways, or buildings shall stop 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. (1977 Code, § 9-402)

**15-503. To prevent obstructing an intersection.** No driver shall enter any intersection or marked crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of 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. (1977 Code, § 9-403)

**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. (1977 Code, § 9-404)

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal code reference

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



**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. (1977 Code, § 9-405)

**15-506. 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. (1977 Code, § 9-406)

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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. Loading and unloading zones.
- 15-606. 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 (18) inches 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 (18) inches of the left edge or curb of the street.

Notwithstanding anything else in this code to the contrary, no person shall park or leave a vehicle parked on any public street or alley within the fire limits between the hours of 1:00 A.M. and 5:00 A.M. or on any other public street or alley for more than 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. (1977 Code, § 9-501)

**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 angle park any vehicle which has a trailer attached thereto or which has a length in excess of twenty-four (24) feet. (1977 Code, § 9-502)

**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 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. (1977 Code, § 9-503)

**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 (15) feet thereof.
  - (4) Within fifteen (15) feet of a fire hydrant.
  - (5) Within a pedestrian crosswalk.
  - (6) Within fifty (50) feet of a railroad crossing.
  - (7) Within twenty (20) feet 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 (75) feet 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 municipality.
- (1977 Code, § 9-504)

**15-605. Loading and unloading zones.** No person shall park a vehicle for any purpose or period of time other than for the expeditious loading or unloading of passengers or merchandise in any place marked by the city as a loading and unloading zone. (1977 Code, § 9-505)

**15-606. 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. (1977 Code, § 9-506)

## CHAPTER 7

### ENFORCEMENT

#### SECTION

- 15-701. Issuance of traffic citations.
- 15-702. Failure to obey citation.
- 15-703. Illegal parking.
- 15-704. Impoundment of vehicles.
- 15-705. Disposal of abandoned motor vehicles.
- 15-706. Violation and penalty.
- 15-707. Driver education course.

**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. (1977 Code, § 9-601)

**15-702. 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. (1977 Code, § 9-602)

**15-703. 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. (1977 Code, § 9-603, modified)

**15-704. Impoundment of vehicles.** Members of the police department are hereby authorized, when reasonably necessary for the security of the vehicle

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference

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

or to prevent obstruction of traffic, to remove from the streets and impound any vehicle whose operator is arrested or any unattended vehicle which is parked so as to constitute an obstruction or hazard to normal traffic. Any impounded vehicle shall be stored until the owner or other person entitled thereto claims it, gives satisfactory evidence of ownership or right to possession, and pays all applicable fees and costs, or until it is otherwise lawfully disposed of. The fee for impounding a vehicle shall be five dollars (\$5.00) and the storage cost shall be one dollar (\$1.00) for each twenty-four (24) hour period or fraction thereof that the vehicle is stored. (1977 Code, § 9-604)

**15-705. 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. (1977 Code, § 9-605)

**15-706. 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. For parking violations, the offender may 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) days and five dollars (\$5.00) thereafter. (1977 Code, § 9-603, modified)

**15-707. Driver education course.** 1. A driver education course is established by the City of Ridgetop in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-301.

2. The driver education course is to be operated by the City of Ridgetop Police Department in cooperation with the City of Ridgetop Municipal Court.

3. The requirement to attend the driver education course shall be at the discretion of the City of Ridgetop municipal judge and may be in addition to or in lieu of any portion of other penalty imposed for the traffic violation.

4. A reasonable fee of \$125.00 shall be assessed for the driver education course to each person who attends, however, no one shall be refused admittance for inability to pay.

5. The driver education course shall be implemented by April 1, 2004. (as added by Ord. #2004-102, March 2004)