

## TITLE 15

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

#### CHAPTER

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#### CHAPTER 1

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

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal code reference

Excavations and obstructions in streets, etc.: title 16.  
Engine compression braking systems: § 11-403.

<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.

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**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, state approved operators license, title, registration, and such other equipment as is prescribed and required by Tennessee Code Annotated, title 55, chapter 9. (1969 Code, § 9-101, modified)

**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. (1969 Code, § 9 106)

**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. (1969 Code, § 9-109)

**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 town 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. (1969 Code, § 9-110)

**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. (1969 Code, § 9-111)

**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. (1969 Code, § 9-112)

**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 town 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. (1969 Code, § 9-113)

**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 town. This section shall not be construed as being mandatory but is merely directive. (1969 Code, § 9-114)

**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. (1969 Code, § 9-115)

**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. (1969 Code, § 9-116)

**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 proper authority 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. (1969 Code, § 9-117)

**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. (1969 Code, § 9-118)

**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. (1969 Code, § 9-120)

**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. (1969 Code, § 9-121)

**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. (1969 Code, § 9-122)

**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 (12) inches square. Between one-half (½) hour after sunset and one-half (½) hour before sunrise there shall be displayed in place of the flag a red light plainly visible under normal atmospheric conditions at least two hundred (200) feet from the rear of such vehicle. (1969 Code, § 9-123)

**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. (1969 Code, § 9-124)

**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." (1969 Code, § 9-125)

**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. (1969 Code, § 9-126)

**15-120. Damaging pavements.** No person shall operate or cause to be operated upon any street of the town 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. (1969 Code, § 9-119)

**15-121. Bicycle riders, etc.** 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 town 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.

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.

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.

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.

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

All motorcycles and motor driven cycles operated on public ways within the corporate limits shall be equipped with crash bars approved by the state's commissioner of safety.

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.

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.

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 to knowingly permit any minor to operate a motorcycle or motor driven cycle in violation of this section. (1969 Code, § 9-127)

**15-122. [Repealed].** (1969 Code, § 9-107, as repealed by Ord. #239, March 2008)

**15-123. Adoption of state traffic statutes.** By reference granted under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 16-18-302, the Town of Tazewell adopts by reference as if fully set forth in this section, the "Rules of the Road:"

(1) Applicability and administration. (a) "Definitions," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-101.

(b) "Applicability of Law," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-102.

(c) "Crimes and Offenses," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-103.

(d) "Riding Animals or Driving Animal Drawn Vehicles," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-105.

(e) "Officers and Employees," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-106

(f) "Working upon Highway Surface," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-107.

(g) "Emergency Vehicles," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-108.

(h) "Pedestrian Control Signals," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-111.

(i) "Crosswalks; Moving upon Right Half," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-137.

(j) "Complaint and Summons or Notice to Appear," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-157.

(k) "Stopping or Parking upon Roadway; Removal," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-159.

(l) "Motorcycles and Autocycles; Rights and Duties," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-181.

(m) "Illegal Parking; Rented or Leased Vehicles," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-186.

(n) "Street Sweeper," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-190.

(o) "Definitions," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-301.

(p) "Electric bicycle, requirements," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-302.

(2) Municipal traffic offenses - the following are adopted by reference as municipal traffic offenses. (a) "Compliance with Lawful Orders or Directions of Police Officers," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-104.

(b) "Traffic Control Devices; Obedience," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-109.

(c) "Traffic Control Signals; Traffic Citations," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-110.

(d) "Flashing Red or Yellow Signals," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-112.

(e) "Unauthorized Signs, Signals, Markings or Devices," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-113.

(f) "Altering, Defacing or Removing Devices or Signs," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-114.

- (g) "Driving upon Right Half of Roadway," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-115.
- (h) "Vehicles Proceeding in Opposite Directions," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-116.
- (i) "Overtaking and Passing," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-117.
- (j) "Overtaking and Passing on Right," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-118.
- (k) "Driving on Left Side of Roadway in Overtaking and Passing," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-119.
- (l) "Driving on Left Side of Roadway; Prohibitions," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-120.
- (m) "No Passing Zones," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-121.
- (n) "One-Way Traffic; Rotary Traffic Islands," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-122.
- (o) "Traffic Lanes," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-123.
- (p) "Following Another Vehicle," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-124.
- (q) "Divided Highways," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-125.
- (r) "Controlled Access Roadways; Entrances and Exits," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-126.
- (s) "Controlled Access Roadway; Prohibited Uses," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-127.
- (t) "Right of Way; Intersections," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-128.
- (u) "Left Turns; Right of Way," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-129.
- (v) "Through Highways; Right of Way," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-130.
- (w) "Drive, Private Road, or Private Driveway; Right of Way," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-131.
- (x) "Pedestrians; Traffic Control Signals," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-133.
- (y) "Crosswalks; Right of Way," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-134.
- (z) "Crossing at Any Point Other than Crosswalk; Right of Way," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-135.
- (aa) "Due Care," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-136.
- (bb) "Walking or Using a Wheelchair Along and upon Roadways," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-138.



(cc) "Soliciting Rides or Employment, Loitering, or Conducting Commercial Activity in or near a State Highway Median; Exceptions," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-139.

(dd) "Turning," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-140.

(ee) "Turning; Curves; Crest of Grades," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-141.

(ff) "Turning; Procedure," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-142.

(gg) "Turn Signals," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

(hh) "Hand and Arm Signals; Signal Lamps or Mechanical Signal Devices," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-144.

(ii) "Railroad Grade Crossings," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-145.

(jj) "Railroad Grade Crossings; Stop Signs," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-146.

(kk) "Railroad Grade Crossings; Machinery and Equipment" as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-148.

(ll) "Stop Signs; Requirements," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-149.

(mm) "Alleys, Driveways or Buildings; Right of Way," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-150.

(nn) "School Buses," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-151.

(oo) "Speed Limits," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-152.

(pp) "Speed Limits, Lower Speed Areas or Zones," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-153.

(qq) "Minimum Speed Limits," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-154.

(rr) "Motor Driven Cycles; Speed Limits," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-155.

(ss) "Speed Limits," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-156.

(tt) "Stopping or Parking on Roadways," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-158.

(uu) "Parking," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-161.

(vv) "Backing," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-163.

(ww) "Motorcycles," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-164.

- (xx) "Drivers View and Control," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-165.
- (yy) "Mountain Highways," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-166.
- (zz) "Coasting," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-167.
- (aaa) "Following Fire Apparatus," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-168.
- (bbb) "Fire Hoses," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-169.
- (ccc) "Destructive or Injurious Materials," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-170.
- (ddd) "Bicycles," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-171.
- (eee) "Bicycles and Electric Bicycles; Rights and Duties; Offense," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-172.
- (fff) "Bicycles; Playing on Highways," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-173.
- (ggg) "Attachment to Vehicles," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-174.
- (hhh) "Operations upon Roadways," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-175.
- (iii) "Carrying Packages or Articles," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-176.
- (jjj) "Lamps; Reflectors; Brakes," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-177.
- (kkk) "Nonmotor Vehicles; Animals," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-178.
- (lll) "Blind Persons; Deaf Persons," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-179.
- (mmm) "Blind Persons," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-180.
- (nnn) "Motorcycles; Lanes," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-182.
- (ooo) "Funerals," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-183.
- (ppp) "Traffic Control Signs, Signals, Markers or Devices; Indication of Ownership," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-184.
- (qqq) "Off-Highway Motor Vehicles," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-185.
- (rrr) "Obscene or Offensive Bumper Stickers, Window Signs or Other Markings," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-187.

- (sss) "High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-188.
- (ttt) "Transportation of Children in Truck Beds; Application," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-189.
- (uuu) "Low-Speed Vehicles; Prohibitions," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-191.
- (vvv) "Excessive Noise from Motor Vehicles," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-193.
- (www) "Designated Lanes for Truck Tractors and Semi Trailers" as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-195.
- (xxx) "Unlawful Use of Wireless Telecommunication Devices," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-199.
- (yyy) "Off-highway vehicles; operation on county roads; requirements; violations; exemptions," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-203".
- (zzz) "Passing Lane; Restriction," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-204.
- (aaaa) "Bicycle Lane; Offenses," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-205.
- (bbbb) "Camping Along Interstate Highways," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-212.
- (cccc) "Modifying Electric Bicycle and Label; Offense," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-304.
- (dddd) "Electric bicycles; requirements; equipment; offense," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-305.
- (eeee) "Classes of electric bicycles; restrictions; offense," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-306.
- (ffff) "Electric bicycle; helmet; delinquent acts; offense," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-307.
- (gggg) "Applications; Temporary Permits; Transfers; Leases; Surrender," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-4-101.
- (hhhh) "Design; Contents; Replacement," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-4-103.
- (iiii) "Expiration; Exceptions; Revalidation of License Plates," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-4-104.
- (jjjj) "Renewal; Applications; Mail Order Service; Replacement Registration," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-4-105.
- (kkkk) "Lost, Mutilated or Illegible Certificates," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-4-107.
- (llll) "Certificate of Registration; Carrying; Display," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-4-108.
- (mmmm) "Attachment of Plates," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-4-110.

(nnnn) "Fees, Antiques; Trailer Rentals; Mobile Homes," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-4-111.

(oooo) "Carriers; Taxation; Fees," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-4-113.

(pppp) "Maximum Gross Weight; Names and Address; Display," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-4-114.

(qqqq) "Temporary Operation Permits; Trip Permits; Fees; Temporary Trailer Permit," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-4-115.

(rrrr) "Nonresidents," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-4-120.

(ssss) "Reciprocity; Interstate or Combined Interstate or Intrastate Commercial Vehicles, Staggered Registration Renewals," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-4-121.

(tttt) "Address Change; Notice; Violation," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-4-131.

(uuuu) "Vehicles Other than Motor Vehicles; Cotton Wagons; Horse-Drawn Vehicles," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-9-401.

(vvvv) "Motor Vehicles," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-9-402.

(wwww) "Motorcycles," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-9-403.

(xxxx) "Train of Vehicles," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-9-404.

(yyyy) "Vehicles Wider than 80 Inches; Truck Tractors; Semitrailers or Full Trailers," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-9-405.

(zzzz) "Headlights; Construction, Arrangement and Adjustment; Precipitation," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-9-406.

(aaaa) "High and Low Beams," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-9-407.

(bbbb) "Anti-Glare Devices," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-9-408.

(cccc) "Blue flashing emergency lights," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-9-414.

(dddd) "Requirements; Specifications," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-9-601.

(eeee) "Child Passenger Restraint Systems; Use of Safety Belts," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-9-602.

(ffff) "Use; Definitions; Crimes and Offenses; License Suspension or Revocation; Exceptions," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-9-603.

(ggggg) "Evidence of Compliance with Financial Responsibility Law; Penalty," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-12-139.

(hhhhh) "Change of Address or Name," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-50-333.

(iiii) "Possession; Display upon Demand; Fines and Penalties," as set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-50-351. (as added by Ord. #222, Aug. 2006, replaced by Ord. #239, March 2008, and Ord. #348, Sept. 2023 *Ch10\_09-12-23*)

**15-124. Compliance with financial responsibility law required.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(5) Evidence of compliance after violation. On or before the court date, the person charged with a violation of this section may submit evidence of compliance with this section in effect at the time of the violation. If the court is satisfied that compliance was in effect at the time of the violation, the charge of failure to provide evidence of financial responsibility may be dismissed. (as added by Ord. #238, March 2008)

## 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 board of mayor and aldermen. (1969 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 an authorized red or blue 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. (1969 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 such vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm. (1969 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. (1969 Code, § 9-105)



## CHAPTER 3

### SPEED LIMITS

#### SECTION

15-301. In general.

15-302. At intersections.

15-303. In school zones and near playgrounds.

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. (1969 Code, § 9-201)

**15-302. At intersections.** It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle through any intersection at a rate of speed in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour unless such person is driving on a street regulated by traffic control signals or signs which require traffic to stop or yield on the intersecting streets. (1969 Code, § 9-202)

**15-303. In school zones and near playgrounds.** 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 a school during recess or while children are going to or leaving school during its opening or closing hours. (1969 Code, § 9-203)

**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 proper authority. (1969 Code, § 9-204)

## 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> (1969 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. (1969 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. (1969 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. (1969 Code, § 9-304)

**15-405. U-turns.** U-turns are prohibited. (1969 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 railroad crossings.
- 15-505. At "stop" signs.
- 15-506. At "yield" signs.
- 15-507. At traffic-control signals generally.
- 15-508. At flashing traffic-control signals.
- 15-509. 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, or of a police vehicle properly and lawfully making use of an audible signal only, the driver of every other vehicle shall immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the right hand edge or curb of the roadway clear of any intersection and shall stop and remain in such position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer. (1969 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. (1969 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. (1969 Code, § 9-403)

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<sup>1</sup>Municipal code reference

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

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

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

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

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

(4) An approaching railroad train is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to the crossing. (1969 Code, § 9-404)

**15-505. At "stop" signs.** The driver of a vehicle facing a "stop" sign shall bring his vehicle to a complete stop immediately before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if there is no crosswalk, then immediately before entering the intersection, and shall remain standing until he can proceed through the intersection in safety. (1969 Code, § 9-405)

**15-506. At "yield" signs.** The drivers of all vehicles shall yield the right of way to approaching vehicles before proceeding at all places where "yield" signs have been posted. (1969 Code, § 9-406)

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

(1) Green alone, or "Go":

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

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

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

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

(b) Pedestrians facing such signal shall not enter the roadway.

- (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.
- (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.
- (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. (1969 Code, § 9-407)

**15-508. At flashing traffic-control signals.** (1) Whenever an illuminated flashing red or yellow signal is used in a traffic sign or signal placed or erected by the town 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. (1969 Code, § 9-408)

**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. (1969 Code, § 9-409)

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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 the Town of Tazewell 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 town 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 central business district or the highway business district<sup>1</sup> 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 mayor.

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. (1969 Code, § 9-501)

**15-602. Angle parking.** On those streets which have been signed or marked by the town 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. (1969 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

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<sup>1</sup>The zoning ordinance and map are of record in the office of the recorder.

street or curb designating such space unless the vehicle is too large to be parked within a single designated space. (1969 Code, § 9-503)

**15-604. Where prohibited.** No person shall park a vehicle in violation of any sign placed or erected by the town, 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 hall, and on the side of the street opposite the entrance to any fire hall 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 town. (1969 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 town as a loading and unloading zone. (1969 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. (1969 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. Deleted.
- 15-707. Deleted.
- 15-708. Handicapped drivers and passengers' parking.
- 15-709. Severability.

**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. (1969 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. (1969 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. (1969 Code, § 9-603)

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference

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



**15-704. Impoundment of vehicles.** Any police officer is hereby authorized, when reasonably necessary for the security of the vehicle 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 a storage costs of one dollar (\$1.00) for each twenty-four (24) hour period or fraction thereof that the vehicle is stored. (1969 Code, § 9-604)

**15-705. Disposal of "abandoned motor vehicles".** The board of mayor and aldermen shall appoint the duties of enforcing this section to the police department. The police shall upon the complaint of any citizen, investigate complaints of junked vehicles on private property. If after investigation the police find a junked vehicle on private property, he shall issue a ticket to cite the owner or operator to city court. The citation shall be served to person or persons apparently in lawful possession of the property, and shall give notice to the same to appear and answer the charges against him or them. If the offender refuses to sign the agreement to appear, the police department may:

- (1) Request the city judge to issue a summons; or
- (2) Issue the offender a citation in lieu of arrest as authorized by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 7-63-101 et seq., or if the offender refuses to sign the citation, may arrest the offender for failure to sign the citation in lieu of arrest. (1969 Code, § 9-605, as amended by Ord. #236, Nov. 2007)

**15-706. Deleted.** (1969 Code, § 9-606, as deleted by Ord. #211, Sept. 2003)

**15-707. Deleted.** (as deleted by Ord. #211, Sept. 2003)

**15-708. Handicapped drivers' and passengers' parking.** It shall be unlawful for any person not having a distinguishing registration, license plate, placard, or other authorization issued pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated §§ 55-21-101 through 55-21-108 to park in any parking space reserved for handicapped drivers and passengers under said state statutes. The penalty for violating this section shall be a fine of not more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the first offense and not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each subsequent offense. (1969 Code, § 9-505.1)

**15-709. Severability.** The invalidity of any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, or clause shall not affect the validity of any other provision of the chapter. (as added by Ord. # 236, Nov. 2007)