

## TITLE 15

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

#### CHAPTER

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2. EMERGENCY VEHICLES.
3. SPEED LIMITS.
4. TURNING MOVEMENTS.
5. STOPPING AND YIELDING.
6. PARKING.
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#### CHAPTER 1

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

#### SECTION

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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.

- 15-113. Clinging to vehicles in motion.
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- 15-121. Bicycle riders, etc.
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- 15-123. Compliance with financial responsibility law required.
- 15-124. 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. (1996 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. (1996 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. (1996 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; or
- (c) Upon a roadway designated and signposted by the municipality 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. (1996 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. (1996 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. (1996 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 municipality 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. (1996 Code, § 15-108)

**15-108. General requirements for traffic control signs, etc.** Pursuant to *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 54-5-108, all traffic control signs, signals, markings, and devices shall conform to the latest revision of the *Tennessee Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways*,<sup>2</sup> and shall be uniform as to type and location throughout the town.

**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

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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 to 15-509.

<sup>2</sup>For the latest revision of the *Tennessee Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways*, see the Official Compilation of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Tennessee, § 1680-3-1, *et seq.*

an official traffic-control sign, signal, marking, or device or railroad sign or 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. (1996 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 municipal authority. All presently installed traffic-control signs, signals, markings and devices are hereby expressly authorized, ratified, and approved irrespective of whether or not they were lawfully placed originally. (1996 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. (1996 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. (1996 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. (1996 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. (1996 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. (1996 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 (12) inches 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. (1996 Code, § 15-117)

**15-117. Causing unnecessary noise.** It shall be unlawful for any person to cause unnecessary noise by unnecessarily "racing" the motor or causing the "screeching" or "squealing" of the tires on any motor vehicle. (1971 Code, § 9-124, modified)

**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 Classified and Commercial Driver License Act of 1988."

**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. (1996 Code, § 15-120)

**15-120. Damaging pavements.** No person shall operate or cause to be operated upon any street of the municipality any vehicle, motor propelled or otherwise, which by reason of its weight or the character of its wheels, tires, or track is likely to damage the surface or foundation of the street. (1996 Code, § 15-121)

**15-121. Bicycle riders, etc.** Every person riding or operating a bicycle, motorcycle, or motor scooter 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 scooters.

It shall be unlawful for two (2) or more bicycle riders moving in the same direction to ride abreast on a public way; they shall ride single file as near to the right side of such public way as practicable. Whenever a usable path or road for bicycles has been provided adjacent to any public street or road, bicycle riders shall use such path and shall not use the public street or road.

No person operating or riding a bicycle, motorcycle, or motor scooter 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 scooter 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 scooter 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, motorbike, or motor scooter 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 in accordance with *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 55-9-301, 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 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. (1996 Code, § 15-122)

**15-122. Vehicles traveling through town.** (1) It shall be unlawful for the operator of any commercial carrier, commercial truck, trailer truck, house trailer, passenger bus or other heavy vehicle engaged in interstate, intrastate or through transportation to travel through the town except on federal or state highways.

(2) Any person or persons found guilty of violating this section shall be fined not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each offense. (1996 Code, § 15-123)

**15-123. Compliance with financial responsibility law required.**

(1) This section shall apply to every vehicle subject to the state registration and certificate of title provisions.

(2) At the time the driver of a motor vehicle is charged with any moving violation under *Tennessee Code Annotated*, 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. 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.

(3) It is a civil offense to fail to provide evidence of financial responsibility pursuant to this section. Any violation is punishable by a civil penalty of up to fifty dollars (\$50.00).

(4) The penalty imposed by this section shall be in addition to any other penalty imposed by the laws of this state or this municipal code.

(5) On or before the court date, the person so charged may submit evidence of financial responsibility at the time of the violation. If it is the person's first violation of this section and the court is satisfied that such financial responsibility was in effect at the time of the violation, the charge of failure to provide evidence of financial responsibility shall be dismissed. Upon the person's second or subsequent violation of this section, if the court is satisfied that such financial responsibility was in effect at the time of the violation, the charge of failure to provide evidence of financial responsibility may be dismissed. Any charge which is dismissed pursuant to this subsection shall be dismissed without costs to the defendant and no litigation tax shall be due or collected.

**15-124. Adoption of state traffic statutes.** By the authority granted under *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 16-18-302, the city/town 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 to 55-8-131, and §§ 55-8-133 to 55-8-180. Additionally, the city/town adopts *Tennessee Code Annotated*, §§ 55-8-181 to 55-8-193, §§ 55-9-601 to 55-9-606, § 55-12-139, § 55-21-108, and § 55-8-199 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. (1996 Code, § 15-201)

**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 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. (1996 Code, § 15-202)

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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 traveling 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. (1996 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 police officer. (1996 Code, § 15-204)

## CHAPTER 3

### SPEED LIMITS

#### SECTION

15-301. In general.

15-302. At intersections.

15-303. In school zones.

**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. (1996 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. (1996 Code, § 15-302)

**15-303. In school zones.** Pursuant to *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 55-8-152, the city/town 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 board of mayor and aldermen 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.

## 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> (1996 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. (1996 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 line thereof and by passing to the right of the intersection of the center line of the two (2) roadways. (1996 Code, § 15-403)

**15-404. Left turns on other than two-way roadways.** At any intersection where traffic is restricted to one (1) direction on one (1) 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. (1996 Code, § 15-504)

**15-405. U-turns.** U-turns are prohibited. (1996 Code, § 15-505)

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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. 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. (1996 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. (1996 Code, § 15-503)

**15-503. At railroad crossings.** (1) Whenever any person driving a vehicle approaches a railroad grade crossing under any of the circumstances stated in this section, the driver of such vehicle shall stop within fifty feet (50') but not less than fifteen feet (15'), from the nearest rail of such railroad, and shall not proceed further until the driver can do so safely. The foregoing requirements shall apply when:

- (a) A clearly visible electrical or mechanical signal device gives warning of the approach of a railroad train;
- (b) A crossing gate is lowered or a human flagman signals the approach of a railroad train;
- (c) 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; or
- (d) An approaching railroad train is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to the crossing.

(2) No person shall drive any vehicle through, around or under any crossing gate or barrier at a railroad crossing while such gate or barrier is closed or is being open or closed. (1996 Code, § 15-504, modified)

**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. (1996 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. (1996 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.

(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. (1996 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 municipality 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. (1996 Code, § 15-508)

**15-508. 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. (1996 Code, § 15-509)

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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. Regulation by parking meters.
- 15-607. Lawful parking in parking meter spaces.
- 15-608. Unlawful parking in parking meter spaces.
- 15-609. Unlawful to occupy more than one parking meter space.
- 15-610. Unlawful to deface or tamper with meters.
- 15-611. Unlawful to deposit slugs in meters.
- 15-612. 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 municipality 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 municipality 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. (1996 Code, § 15-601)

**15-602. Angle parking.** On those streets which have been signed or marked by the municipality 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 feet (24'). (1996 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 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. (1996 Code, § 15-603)

**15-604. Where prohibited.** No person shall park a vehicle in violation of any sign placed or erected by the municipality, 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) In a parking space clearly identified by an official sign as being reserved for the physically handicapped, unless, however, the person driving the vehicle is:
  - (a) Physically handicapped, or
  - (b) Parking such vehicle for the benefit of a physically handicapped person.

A vehicle parking in such a space shall display a certificate of identification or a disabled veteran's license plate issued under *Tennessee Code Annotated*, title 55, chapter 21; or

- (12) Alongside any curb painted yellow or red by the municipality. (1996 Code, § 15-604, modified)

**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 municipality as a loading and unloading zone. (1996 Code, § 15-605)

**15-606. Regulation by parking meters.** In the absence of an official sign to the contrary which has been installed by the municipality, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M., on all days except Sundays and holidays declared by the governing body, parking shall be regulated by parking meters where the same have been installed by the municipality. The presumption shall

be that all installed parking meters were lawfully installed by the municipality. (1996 Code, § 15-606)

**15-607. Lawful parking in parking meter spaces.** Any parking space regulated by a parking meter may be lawfully occupied by a vehicle only after a proper coin has been deposited in the parking meter and the said meter has been activated or placed in operation in accordance with the instructions printed thereon. (1996 Code, § 15-607)

**15-608. Unlawful parking in parking meter spaces.** It shall be unlawful for the owner or operator of any vehicle to park or allow his vehicle to be parked in a parking space regulated by a parking meter for more than the maximum period of time which can be purchased at one time. Insertion of additional coin or coins in the meter to purchase additional time is unlawful.

No owner or operator of any vehicle shall park or allow his vehicle to be parked in such a space when the parking meter therefor indicates no parking time allowed, whether such indication is the result of a failure to deposit a coin or to operate the lever or other actuating device on the meter, or the result of the automatic operation of the meter following the expiration of the lawful parking time subsequent to depositing a coin therein at the time the vehicle was parked. (1996 Code, § 15-608)

**15-609. Unlawful to occupy more than one parking meter 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 meter space or otherwise so that such vehicle is not entirely within the designated parking meter space; provided, however, that vehicles which are too large to park within one (1) space may be permitted to occupy two (2) adjoining spaces provided proper coins are placed in both meters. (1996 Code, § 15-609)

**15-610. Unlawful to deface or tamper with meters.** It shall be unlawful for any unauthorized person to open, deface, tamper with, willfully break, destroy, or impair the usefulness of any parking meter. (1996 Code, § 15-610)

**15-611. Unlawful to deposit slugs in meters.** It shall be unlawful for any person to deposit in a parking meter any slug or other substitute for a coin of the United States. (1996 Code, § 15-611)

**15-612. 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. (1996 Code, § 15-612)

## 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. Violations 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, 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 town 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. (1996 Code, § 15-701, modified)

**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. (1996 Code, § 15-702)

**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. (1996 Code, § 15-703)

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

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<sup>1</sup>State law reference

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

so as to constitute an obstruction or hazard to normal traffic, or which has been parked for more than one (1) hour in excess of the time allowed for parking in any place, or which has been involved in two (2) or more violations of this title for which citation tags have been affixed to the vehicle and the vehicle not removed. 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. (1996 Code, § 15-704, modified)

**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 to 55-16-109. (1996 Code, § 15-705)

**15-706. Violations 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. Other parking violations. For other parking violations the offender may similarly waive his right to a judicial hearing and have the charges disposed of out of court but the fine shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00), payment of court costs, plus an appearance before the judge on the next available court date. Payment of the fine prior to the court date will negate the need for court appearance. (1996 Code, § 15-706, modified)