

2556

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

January 20, 2009

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Introduced by M. of A. GANTT -- read once and referred to the Committee  
on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to allowing  
counties to establish demonstration programs imposing monetary liability  
on the owner of a vehicle for failure of an operator thereof to  
comply with traffic-control indications

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY,  
DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Section 1111-a of the vehicle and traffic law, as added by  
2 chapter 746 of the laws of 1988, subdivisions (a), (b), (c), (d), (k)  
3 and (m) as amended and subdivision (n) as added by chapter 658 of the  
4 laws of 2006 and subdivision (e) as amended by chapter 479 of the laws  
5 of 1994, is amended to read as follows:  
6     S 1111-a. Owner liability for failure of operator to comply with  
7 traffic-control indications. (a) 1. Notwithstanding any other provision  
8 of law, each city with a population of one million or more AND COUNTY AS  
9 PROVIDED IN SUBDIVISION (O) OF THIS SECTION is hereby authorized and  
10 empowered to adopt and amend a local law or ordinance establishing a  
11 demonstration program imposing monetary liability on the owner of a  
12 vehicle for failure of an operator thereof to comply with traffic-control  
13 indications in such city OR COUNTY in accordance with the  
14 provisions of this section. Such demonstration program shall empower a  
15 city OR COUNTY to install and operate traffic-control signal photo  
16 violation-monitoring devices at no more than one hundred intersections  
17 within such city at any one time AND AT NO MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT  
18 OF INTERSECTIONS WITHIN SUCH COUNTY AT ANY ONE TIME.  
19     2. Such demonstration program shall utilize necessary technologies to  
20 ensure, to the extent practicable, that photographs produced by such  
21 traffic-control signal photo violation-monitoring systems shall not  
22 include images that identify the driver, the passengers, or the contents  
23 of the vehicle. Provided, however, that no notice of liability issued

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 pursuant to this section shall be dismissed solely because a photograph  
2 or photographs allow for the identification of the contents of a vehi-  
3 cle, provided that such city OR COUNTY has made a reasonable effort to  
4 comply with the provisions of this paragraph.

5 (b) In any city OR COUNTY which has adopted a local law or ordinance  
6 pursuant to subdivision (a) of this section, the owner of a vehicle  
7 shall be liable for a penalty imposed pursuant to this section if such  
8 vehicle was used or operated with the permission of the owner, express  
9 or implied, in violation of subdivision (d) of section eleven hundred  
10 eleven of this article, and such violation is evidenced by information  
11 obtained from a traffic-control signal photo violation-monitoring  
12 system; provided however that no owner of a vehicle shall be liable for  
13 a penalty imposed pursuant to this section where the operator of such  
14 vehicle has been convicted of the underlying violation of subdivision  
15 (d) of section eleven hundred eleven of this article.

16 (c) For purposes of this section, "owner" shall have the meaning  
17 provided in article two-B of this chapter. For purposes of this section,  
18 "traffic-control signal photo violation-monitoring system" shall mean a  
19 [vehicle sensor installed to work in conjunction with a traffic-control  
20 signal which automatically produces two or more photographs, two or more  
21 microphotographs, a videotape or other recorded images of each vehicle  
22 at the time it is used or operated in violation of subdivision (d) of  
23 section eleven hundred eleven of this article] SYSTEM UTILIZING  
24 RADAR-BASED DOWN-THE-ROAD SPEED MEASUREMENT METHODS IN WHICH A PHOTO-  
25 GRAPH IS TAKEN COINCIDENT TO, OR AS NEAR AS POSSIBLE TO, THE LOCATION  
26 OF, RECORDED SPEED MEASUREMENTS; PROVIDED HOWEVER, THAT ONLY PHOTOGRAPHS  
27 OF THE REAR OF THE VEHICLE SHALL BE TAKEN AND SUCH PHOTOGRAPHS AND SPEED  
28 MEASUREMENT SHALL NOT BE UTILIZED FOR SPEED ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES. SUCH  
29 DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM SHALL USE SYSTEMS THAT PROVIDE AN AUTOMATED  
30 CONCURRENT SECONDARY MEASUREMENT OF VEHICLE SPEED AS VERIFICATION. IN  
31 ADDITION, THESE SYSTEMS SHALL BE CAPABLE OF MAKING SEPARATE AND DISTINCT  
32 MEASUREMENTS OF MULTIPLE VEHICLES WITHIN THE RANGE OF DETECTION. SUCH  
33 DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM SHALL NOT UTILIZE VEHICLE SENSORS OF THE FOLLOWING  
34 TYPES: VIDEO, VIRTUAL LOOPS, LASER-BASED, ACROSS-THE-ROAD RADAR,  
35 IN-THE-ROAD EMBEDDED OR SURFACE MOUNT OR ADDITIONAL ROAD MARKINGS. SUCH  
36 DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM SHALL UTILIZE CORE TECHNOLOGY DATABASE AND APPLI-  
37 CATION PROTOCOLS FOR TICKET-PROCESSING SYSTEMS COMPATIBLE WITH STATE  
38 AGENCY SYSTEMS.

39 (d) A certificate, sworn to or affirmed by a technician employed by  
40 the city OR COUNTY in which the charged violation occurred, or a facsim-  
41 ile thereof, based upon inspection of photographs, microphotographs,  
42 videotape or other recorded images produced by a traffic-control signal  
43 photo violation-monitoring system, shall be prima facie evidence of the  
44 facts contained therein. Any photographs, microphotographs, videotape or  
45 other recorded images evidencing such a violation shall be available for  
46 inspection in any proceeding to adjudicate the liability for such  
47 violation pursuant to a local law or ordinance adopted pursuant to this  
48 section.

49 (e) An owner liable for a violation of subdivision (d) of section  
50 eleven hundred eleven of this article pursuant to a local law or ordi-  
51 nance adopted pursuant to this section shall be liable for monetary  
52 penalties in accordance with a schedule of fines and penalties to be set  
53 forth in such local law or ordinance, except that: (I) in a city which,  
54 by local law, has authorized the adjudication of such owner liability by  
55 a parking violations bureau, such schedule shall be promulgated by such  
56 bureau; (II) IN ANY COUNTY WHICH, BY LOCAL LAW, HAS AUTHORIZED THE ADJU-

1 DICATION OF SUCH OWNER LIABILITY BY A TRAFFIC AND PARKING VIOLATIONS  
2 AGENCY, SUCH SCHEDULE MAY BE PROMULGATED BY THE BOARD OF JUDGES OF THE  
3 DISTRICT COURT FOR SUCH COUNTY, PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION  
4 TWENTY-FOUR HUNDRED EIGHT OR SUBDIVISION ONE OF SECTION TWENTY-FOUR  
5 HUNDRED ELEVEN OF THE UNIFORM DISTRICT COURT ACT; AND (III) IN ANY COUN-  
6 TY WHICH, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY LAW TO THE CONTRARY, BY LOCAL LAW, HAS  
7 DEVELOPED AN ADJUDICATION PROCESS APPROVED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL  
8 JUSTICE SERVICES, WHICH RESULTS IN ALL REVENUE BEING RETAINED BY SUCH  
9 COUNTIES AFTER ALL ELIGIBLE SURCHARGES ARE PAID TO THE STATE, SUCH SCHE-  
10 DULE SHALL BE PROMULGATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE  
11 APPROVED PROCESS. The liability of the owner pursuant to this section  
12 shall not exceed fifty dollars for each violation; provided, however,  
13 that such local law or ordinance may provide for an additional penalty  
14 not in excess of twenty-five dollars for each violation for the failure  
15 to respond to a notice of liability within the prescribed time period.

16 (f) An imposition of liability under a local law or ordinance adopted  
17 pursuant to this section shall not be deemed a conviction as an operator  
18 and shall not be made part of the operating record of the person upon  
19 whom such liability is imposed nor shall it be used for insurance  
20 purposes in the provision of motor vehicle insurance coverage.

21 (g) 1. A notice of liability shall be sent by first class mail to each  
22 person alleged to be liable as an owner for a violation of subdivision  
23 (d) of section eleven hundred eleven of this article pursuant to this  
24 section. Personal delivery on the owner shall not be required. A manual  
25 or automatic record of mailing prepared in the ordinary course of busi-  
26 ness shall be prima facie evidence of the facts contained therein.

27 2. A notice of liability shall contain the name and address of the  
28 person alleged to be liable as an owner for a violation of subdivision  
29 (d) of section eleven hundred eleven of this article pursuant to this  
30 section, the registration number of the vehicle involved in such  
31 violation, the location where such violation took place, the date and  
32 time of such violation and the identification number of the camera which  
33 recorded the violation or other document locator number.

34 3. The notice of liability shall contain information advising the  
35 person charged of the manner and the time in which he OR SHE may contest  
36 the liability alleged in the notice. Such notice of liability shall also  
37 contain a warning to advise the persons charged that failure to contest  
38 in the manner and time provided shall be deemed an admission of liabil-  
39 ity and that a default judgment may be entered thereon.

40 4. The notice of liability shall be prepared and mailed by the city OR  
41 COUNTY having jurisdiction over the intersection where the violation  
42 occurred, or by any other entity authorized by the city OR COUNTY to  
43 prepare and mail such notification of violation.

44 (h) Adjudication of the liability imposed upon owners by this section  
45 shall be by a traffic violations bureau established pursuant to section  
46 three hundred seventy of the general municipal law or BY A TRAFFIC AND  
47 PARKING VIOLATIONS AGENCY, OR BY A PROCESS CREATED BY LOCAL LAW AND  
48 APPROVED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES OR, if there be  
49 none, by the court having jurisdiction over traffic infractions, except  
50 that any city which has established an administrative tribunal to hear  
51 and determine complaints of traffic infractions constituting parking,  
52 standing or stopping violations may, by local law, authorize such adju-  
53 dication by such tribunal.

54 (i) If an owner receives a notice of liability pursuant to this  
55 section for any time period during which the vehicle was reported to the  
56 police department as having been stolen, it shall be a valid defense to

1 an allegation of liability for a violation of subdivision (d) of section  
2 eleven hundred eleven of this article pursuant to this section that the  
3 vehicle had been reported to the police as stolen prior to the time the  
4 violation occurred and had not been recovered by such time. For purposes  
5 of asserting the defense provided by this subdivision it shall be suffi-  
6 cient that a certified copy of the police report on the stolen vehicle  
7 be sent by first class mail to the traffic violations bureau, court  
8 having jurisdiction or parking violations bureau.

9 (j) 1. In a city OR COUNTY where the adjudication of liability imposed  
10 upon owners pursuant to this section is by a traffic violations bureau  
11 or BY A TRAFFIC AND PARKING VIOLATIONS AGENCY, OR BY A PROCESS CREATED  
12 BY LOCAL LAW AND APPROVED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES  
13 OR a court having jurisdiction, an owner who is a lessor of a vehicle to  
14 which a notice of liability was issued pursuant to subdivision (g) of  
15 this section shall not be liable for the violation of subdivision (d) of  
16 section eleven hundred eleven of this article, provided that he or she  
17 sends to the traffic violations bureau, A TRAFFIC AND PARKING VIOLATIONS  
18 AGENCY, OR THROUGH OTHER PROCESS AS CREATED BY LOCAL LAW AND APPROVED BY  
19 THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES or A court having jurisdiction  
20 a copy of the rental, lease or other such contract document covering  
21 such vehicle on the date of the violation, with the name and address of  
22 the lessee clearly legible, within thirty-seven days after receiving  
23 notice from the bureau, TRAFFIC AND PARKING VIOLATIONS AGENCY OR THROUGH  
24 OTHER PROCESS AS CREATED BY LOCAL LAW AND APPROVED BY THE DIVISION OF  
25 CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES or court of the date and time of such  
26 violation, together with the other information contained in the original  
27 notice of liability. Failure to send such information within such thir-  
28 ty-seven day time period shall render the owner liable for the penalty  
29 prescribed by this section. Where the lessor complies with the  
30 provisions of this paragraph, the lessee of such vehicle on the date of  
31 such violation shall be deemed to be the owner of such vehicle for  
32 purposes of this section, shall be subject to liability for the  
33 violation of subdivision (d) of section eleven hundred eleven of this  
34 article pursuant to this section and shall be sent a notice of liability  
35 pursuant to subdivision (g) of this section.

36 2. (i) In a city which, by local law, has authorized the adjudication  
37 of liability imposed upon owners by this section by a parking violations  
38 bureau, an owner who is a lessor of a vehicle to which a notice of  
39 liability was issued pursuant to subdivision (g) of this section shall  
40 not be liable for the violation of subdivision (d) of section eleven  
41 hundred eleven of this article, provided that:

42 (A) prior to the violation, the lessor has filed with the bureau in  
43 accordance with the provisions of section two hundred thirty-nine of  
44 this chapter; and

45 (B) within thirty-seven days after receiving notice from the bureau of  
46 the date and time of a liability, together with the other information  
47 contained in the original notice of liability, the lessor submits to the  
48 bureau the correct name and address of the lessee of the vehicle identi-  
49 fied in the notice of liability at the time of such violation, together  
50 with such other additional information contained in the rental, lease or  
51 other contract document, as may be reasonably required by the bureau  
52 pursuant to regulations that may be promulgated for such purpose.

53 (ii) Failure to comply with clause (B) of subparagraph (i) of this  
54 paragraph shall render the owner liable for the penalty prescribed in  
55 this section.

(iii) Where the lessor complies with the provisions of this paragraph, the lessee of such vehicle on the date of such violation shall be deemed to be the owner of such vehicle for purposes of this section, shall be subject to liability for such violation pursuant to this section and shall be sent a notice of liability pursuant to subdivision (g) of this section.

(k) 1. If the owner liable for a violation of subdivision (d) of section eleven hundred eleven of this article pursuant to this section was not the operator of the vehicle at the time of the violation, the owner may maintain an action for indemnification against the operator.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no owner of a vehicle shall be subject to a monetary fine imposed pursuant to this section if the operator of such vehicle was operating such vehicle without the consent of the owner at the time such operator failed to obey a traffic-control indication. For purposes of this subdivision there shall be a presumption that the operator of such vehicle was operating such vehicle with the consent of the owner at the time such operator failed to obey a traffic-control indication.

(l) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the liability of an operator of a vehicle for any violation of subdivision (d) of section eleven hundred eleven of this article.

(m) In any city OR COUNTY which adopts a demonstration program pursuant to subdivision (a) of this section, such city OR COUNTY shall submit an annual report on the results of the use of a traffic-control signal photo violation-monitoring system to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly on or before June first, two thousand seven and on the same date in each succeeding year in which the demonstration program is operable. Such report shall include, but not be limited to:

1. a description of the locations where traffic-control signal photo violation-monitoring systems were used;

2. within SUCH COUNTY OR SUCH CITY OR each borough of such city WITH A POPULATION OVER ONE MILLION, the aggregate number, type and severity of accidents reported at intersections where a traffic-control signal photo violation-monitoring system is used for the year preceding the installation of such system, to the extent the information is maintained by the department of motor vehicles of this state;

3. within SUCH COUNTY OR SUCH CITY OR each borough of such city WITH A POPULATION OVER ONE MILLION, the aggregate number, type and severity of accidents reported at intersections where a traffic-control signal photo violation-monitoring system is used, to the extent the information is maintained by the department of motor vehicles of this state;

4. the number of violations recorded at each intersection where a traffic-control signal photo violation-monitoring system is used and in the aggregate on a daily, weekly and monthly basis;

5. the total number of notices of liability issued for violations recorded by such systems;

6. the number of fines and total amount of fines paid after first notice of liability issued for violations recorded by such systems;

7. the number of violations adjudicated and results of such adjudications including breakdowns of dispositions made for violations recorded by such systems;

8. the total amount of revenue realized by such city OR COUNTY from such adjudications;

9. expenses incurred by such city OR COUNTY in connection with the program; and

10. quality of the adjudication process and its results.

(n) It shall be a defense to any prosecution for a violation of subdivision (d) of section eleven hundred eleven of this article pursuant to a local law or ordinance adopted pursuant to this section that such traffic-control indications were malfunctioning at the time of the alleged violation.

(O) ANY COUNTY WISHING TO ESTABLISH A DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION MAY DO SO BY ADOPTING OR AMENDING A LOCAL LAW OR ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND ESTABLISHING SUCH PROGRAM, ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

1. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER FIRST, TWO THOUSAND NINE, ANY COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF ONE MILLION OR MORE SHALL BE ELIGIBLE;

2. EFFECTIVE JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND TEN, ANY COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND OR MORE SHALL BE ELIGIBLE; AND

3. EFFECTIVE JULY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND TEN, ANY COUNTY OF ANY POPULATION SHALL BE ELIGIBLE;

NO COUNTY SHALL OPERATE A TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL PHOTO VIOLATION-MONITORING SYSTEM IMPOSING LIABILITY ON THE OWNER OF A VEHICLE EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION.

(P) ANY COUNTY ESTABLISHING A DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION MAY, UPON PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES, ESTABLISH ITS OWN PROCESS FOR ADJUDICATION OF LIABILITY IMPOSED UPON OWNERS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, the amendments to section 1111-a of the vehicle and traffic law made by section one of this act shall not affect the repeal of such section and shall be deemed repealed therewith.