

5010

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

May 6, 2013

Introduced by Sen. HASSELL-THOMPSON -- read twice and ordered printed,
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to red light
cameras in the city of Mt. Vernon

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

1 Section 1. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new
2 section 1111-d to read as follows:
3 S 1111-D. OWNER LIABILITY FOR FAILURE OF OPERATOR TO COMPLY WITH
4 TRAFFIC-CONTROL INDICATIONS. (A) 1. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION
5 OF LAW, THE CITY OF MT. VERNON IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND EMPOWERED TO
6 ADOPT AND AMEND A LOCAL LAW OR ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A DEMONSTRATION
7 PROGRAM IMPOSING MONETARY LIABILITY ON THE OWNER OF A VEHICLE FOR FAIL-
8 URE OF AN OPERATOR THEREOF TO COMPLY WITH TRAFFIC-CONTROL INDICATIONS IN
9 SUCH CITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION. SUCH DEMON-
10 STRATION PROGRAM SHALL EMPOWER SUCH CITY TO INSTALL AND OPERATE TRAFF-
11 IC-CONTROL SIGNAL PHOTO VIOLATION-MONITORING DEVICES AT NO MORE THAN
12 TWENTY INTERSECTIONS WITHIN SUCH CITY AT ANY ONE TIME.
13 2. SUCH DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM SHALL UTILIZE NECESSARY TECHNOLOGIES TO
14 ENSURE, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THAT PHOTOGRAPHS PRODUCED BY SUCH
15 TRAFFIC-CONTROL SIGNAL PHOTO VIOLATION-MONITORING SYSTEMS SHALL NOT
16 INCLUDE IMAGES THAT IDENTIFY THE DRIVER, THE PASSENGERS, OR THE CONTENTS
17 OF THE VEHICLE. PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NO NOTICE OF LIABILITY ISSUED
18 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL BE DISMISSED SOLELY BECAUSE A PHOTOGRAPH
19 OR PHOTOGRAPHS ALLOW FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE CONTENTS OF A VEHI-
20 CLE, PROVIDED THAT SUCH CITY HAS MADE A REASONABLE EFFORT TO COMPLY WITH
21 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PARAGRAPH.
22 (B) IN ANY SUCH CITY WHICH HAS ADOPTED A LOCAL LAW OR ORDINANCE PURSU-
23 ANT TO SUBDIVISION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE OWNER OF A VEHICLE SHALL BE
24 LIABLE FOR A PENALTY IMPOSED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IF SUCH VEHICLE
25 WAS USED OR OPERATED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE OWNER, EXPRESS OR

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

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IMPLIED, IN VIOLATION OF SUBDIVISION (D) OF SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED ELEVEN OF THIS ARTICLE, AND SUCH VIOLATION IS EVIDENCED BY INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM A TRAFFIC-CONTROL SIGNAL PHOTO VIOLATION-MONITORING SYSTEM; PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT NO OWNER OF A VEHICLE SHALL BE LIABLE FOR A PENALTY IMPOSED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION WHERE THE OPERATOR OF SUCH VEHICLE HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF THE UNDERLYING VIOLATION OF SUBDIVISION (D) OF SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED ELEVEN OF THIS ARTICLE.

(C) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "OWNER" SHALL HAVE THE MEANING PROVIDED IN ARTICLE TWO-B OF THIS CHAPTER. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "TRAFFIC-CONTROL SIGNAL PHOTO VIOLATION-MONITORING SYSTEM" SHALL MEAN A VEHICLE SENSOR INSTALLED TO WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH A TRAFFIC-CONTROL SIGNAL WHICH AUTOMATICALLY PRODUCES TWO OR MORE PHOTOGRAPHS, TWO OR MORE MICROPHOTOGRAPHS, A VIDEOTAPE OR OTHER RECORDED IMAGES OF EACH VEHICLE AT THE TIME IT IS USED OR OPERATED IN VIOLATION OF SUBDIVISION (D) OF SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED ELEVEN OF THIS ARTICLE.

(D) A CERTIFICATE, SWORN TO OR AFFIRMED BY A TECHNICIAN EMPLOYED BY THE CITY OF MT. VERNON IN WHICH THE CHARGED VIOLATION OCCURRED, OR A FACSIMILE THEREOF, BASED UPON INSPECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS, MICROPHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEOTAPE OR OTHER RECORDED IMAGES PRODUCED BY A TRAFFIC-CONTROL SIGNAL PHOTO VIOLATION-MONITORING SYSTEM, SHALL BE PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE OF THE FACTS CONTAINED THEREIN. ANY PHOTOGRAPHS, MICROPHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEOTAPE OR OTHER RECORDED IMAGES EVIDENCING SUCH A VIOLATION SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION IN ANY PROCEEDING TO ADJUDICATE THE LIABILITY FOR SUCH VIOLATION PURSUANT TO A LOCAL LAW OR ORDINANCE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

(E) AN OWNER LIABLE 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 SHALL BE LIABLE FOR MONETARY PENALTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SCHEDULE OF FINES AND PENALTIES TO BE SET FORTH IN SUCH LOCAL LAW OR ORDINANCE, EXCEPT THAT IF SUCH CITY BY LOCAL LAW HAS AUTHORIZED THE ADJUDICATION OF SUCH OWNER LIABILITY BY A PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU, SUCH SCHEDULE SHALL BE PROMULGATED BY SUCH BUREAU. THE LIABILITY OF THE OWNER PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL NOT EXCEED FIFTY DOLLARS FOR EACH VIOLATION; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH LOCAL LAW OR ORDINANCE MAY PROVIDE FOR AN ADDITIONAL PENALTY NOT IN EXCESS OF TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS FOR EACH VIOLATION FOR THE FAILURE TO RESPOND TO A NOTICE OF LIABILITY WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED TIME PERIOD.

(F) AN IMPOSITION OF LIABILITY UNDER A LOCAL LAW OR ORDINANCE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE DEEMED A CONVICTION AS AN OPERATOR AND SHALL NOT BE MADE PART OF THE OPERATING RECORD OF THE PERSON UPON WHOM SUCH LIABILITY IS IMPOSED NOR SHALL IT BE USED FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES IN THE PROVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE COVERAGE.

(G) 1. A NOTICE OF LIABILITY SHALL BE SENT BY FIRST CLASS MAIL TO EACH PERSON ALLEGED TO BE LIABLE AS AN OWNER FOR A VIOLATION OF SUBDIVISION (D) OF SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED ELEVEN OF THIS ARTICLE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. PERSONAL DELIVERY ON THE OWNER SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED. A MANUAL OR AUTOMATIC RECORD OF MAILING PREPARED IN THE ORDINARY COURSE OF BUSINESS SHALL BE PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE OF THE FACTS CONTAINED THEREIN.

2. A NOTICE OF LIABILITY SHALL CONTAIN THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON ALLEGED TO BE LIABLE AS AN OWNER FOR A VIOLATION OF SUBDIVISION (D) OF SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED ELEVEN OF THIS ARTICLE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE VEHICLE INVOLVED IN SUCH VIOLATION, THE LOCATION WHERE SUCH VIOLATION TOOK PLACE, THE DATE AND TIME OF SUCH VIOLATION AND THE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER OF THE CAMERA WHICH RECORDED THE VIOLATION OR OTHER DOCUMENT LOCATOR NUMBER.

1 3. THE NOTICE OF LIABILITY SHALL CONTAIN INFORMATION ADVISING THE
2 PERSON CHARGED OF THE MANNER AND THE TIME IN WHICH HE OR SHE MAY CONTEST
3 THE LIABILITY ALLEGED IN THE NOTICE. SUCH NOTICE OF LIABILITY SHALL ALSO
4 CONTAIN A WARNING TO ADVISE THE PERSONS CHARGED THAT FAILURE TO CONTEST
5 IN THE MANNER AND TIME PROVIDED SHALL BE DEEMED AN ADMISSION OF LIABIL-
6 ITY AND THAT A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED THEREON.

7 4. THE NOTICE OF LIABILITY SHALL BE PREPARED AND MAILED BY THE CITY OF
8 MT. VERNON, OR BY ANY OTHER ENTITY AUTHORIZED BY SUCH CITY TO PREPARE
9 AND MAIL SUCH NOTIFICATION OF VIOLATION.

10 (H) ADJUDICATION OF THE LIABILITY IMPOSED UPON OWNERS BY THIS SECTION
11 SHALL BE BY A TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BUREAU ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION
12 THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW OR, IF THERE BE NONE,
13 BY THE COURT HAVING JURISDICTION OVER TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS, EXCEPT THAT
14 IF SUCH CITY HAS ESTABLISHED AN ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL TO HEAR AND
15 DETERMINE COMPLAINTS OF TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS CONSTITUTING PARKING, STAND-
16 ING OR STOPPING VIOLATIONS SUCH CITY MAY, BY LOCAL LAW, AUTHORIZE SUCH
17 ADJUDICATION BY SUCH TRIBUNAL.

18 (I) IF AN OWNER RECEIVES A NOTICE OF LIABILITY PURSUANT TO THIS
19 SECTION FOR ANY TIME PERIOD DURING WHICH THE VEHICLE WAS REPORTED TO THE
20 POLICE DEPARTMENT AS HAVING BEEN STOLEN, IT SHALL BE A VALID DEFENSE TO
21 AN ALLEGATION OF LIABILITY FOR A VIOLATION OF SUBDIVISION (D) OF SECTION
22 ELEVEN HUNDRED ELEVEN OF THIS ARTICLE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION THAT THE
23 VEHICLE HAD BEEN REPORTED TO THE POLICE AS STOLEN PRIOR TO THE TIME THE
24 VIOLATION OCCURRED AND HAD NOT BEEN RECOVERED BY SUCH TIME. FOR PURPOSES
25 OF ASSERTING THE DEFENSE PROVIDED BY THIS SUBDIVISION IT SHALL BE SUFFI-
26 CIENT THAT A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE POLICE REPORT ON THE STOLEN VEHICLE
27 BE SENT BY FIRST CLASS MAIL TO THE TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BUREAU, COURT
28 HAVING JURISDICTION OR PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU.

29 (J) 1. IN SUCH CITY WHERE THE ADJUDICATION OF LIABILITY IMPOSED UPON
30 OWNERS PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IS BY A TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BUREAU OR A
31 COURT HAVING JURISDICTION, AN OWNER WHO IS A LESSOR OF A VEHICLE TO
32 WHICH A NOTICE OF LIABILITY WAS ISSUED PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION (G) OF
33 THIS SECTION SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR THE VIOLATION OF SUBDIVISION (D) OF
34 SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED ELEVEN OF THIS ARTICLE, PROVIDED THAT HE OR SHE
35 SENDS TO THE TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BUREAU OR COURT HAVING JURISDICTION A
36 COPY OF THE RENTAL, LEASE OR OTHER SUCH CONTRACT DOCUMENT COVERING SUCH
37 VEHICLE ON THE DATE OF THE VIOLATION, WITH THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE
38 LESSEE CLEARLY LEGIBLE, WITHIN THIRTY-SEVEN DAYS AFTER RECEIVING NOTICE
39 FROM THE BUREAU OR COURT OF THE DATE AND TIME OF SUCH VIOLATION, TOGETH-
40 ER WITH THE OTHER INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ORIGINAL NOTICE OF
41 LIABILITY. FAILURE TO SEND SUCH INFORMATION WITHIN SUCH THIRTY-SEVEN DAY
42 TIME PERIOD SHALL RENDER THE OWNER LIABLE FOR THE PENALTY PRESCRIBED BY
43 THIS SECTION. WHERE THE LESSOR COMPLIES WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS
44 PARAGRAPH, THE LESSEE OF SUCH VEHICLE ON THE DATE OF SUCH VIOLATION
45 SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE THE OWNER OF SUCH VEHICLE FOR PURPOSES OF THIS
46 SECTION, SHALL BE SUBJECT TO LIABILITY FOR THE VIOLATION OF SUBDIVISION
47 (D) OF SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED ELEVEN OF THIS ARTICLE PURSUANT TO THIS
48 SECTION AND SHALL BE SENT A NOTICE OF LIABILITY PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION
49 (G) OF THIS SECTION.

50 2. (I) IN SUCH CITY WHICH, BY LOCAL LAW, HAS AUTHORIZED THE ADJUDI-
51 CATION OF LIABILITY IMPOSED UPON OWNERS BY THIS SECTION BY A PARKING
52 VIOLATIONS BUREAU, AN OWNER WHO IS A LESSOR OF A VEHICLE TO WHICH A
53 NOTICE OF LIABILITY WAS ISSUED PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION (G) OF THIS
54 SECTION SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR THE VIOLATION OF SUBDIVISION (D) OF
55 SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED ELEVEN OF THIS ARTICLE, PROVIDED THAT:

1 (A) PRIOR TO THE VIOLATION, THE LESSOR HAS FILED WITH THE BUREAU IN
2 ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE OF
3 THIS CHAPTER; AND

4 (B) WITHIN THIRTY-SEVEN DAYS AFTER RECEIVING NOTICE FROM THE BUREAU OF
5 THE DATE AND TIME OF A LIABILITY, TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER INFORMATION
6 CONTAINED IN THE ORIGINAL NOTICE OF LIABILITY, THE LESSOR SUBMITS TO THE
7 BUREAU THE CORRECT NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE LESSEE OF THE VEHICLE IDENTI-
8 FIED IN THE NOTICE OF LIABILITY AT THE TIME OF SUCH VIOLATION, TOGETHER
9 WITH SUCH OTHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE RENTAL, LEASE OR
10 OTHER CONTRACT DOCUMENT, AS MAY BE REASONABLY REQUIRED BY THE BUREAU
11 PURSUANT TO REGULATIONS THAT MAY BE PROMULGATED FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

12 (II) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CLAUSE (B) OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS
13 PARAGRAPH SHALL RENDER THE OWNER LIABLE FOR THE PENALTY PRESCRIBED IN
14 THIS SECTION.

15 (III) WHERE THE LESSOR COMPLIES WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PARAGRAPH,
16 THE LESSEE OF SUCH VEHICLE ON THE DATE OF SUCH VIOLATION SHALL BE DEEMED
17 TO BE THE OWNER OF SUCH VEHICLE FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, SHALL BE
18 SUBJECT TO LIABILITY FOR SUCH VIOLATION PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION AND
19 SHALL BE SENT A NOTICE OF LIABILITY PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION (G) OF THIS
20 SECTION.

21 (K) 1. IF THE OWNER LIABLE FOR A VIOLATION OF SUBDIVISION (D) OF
22 SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED ELEVEN OF THIS ARTICLE PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION
23 WAS NOT THE OPERATOR OF THE VEHICLE AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION, THE
24 OWNER MAY MAINTAIN AN ACTION FOR INDEMNIFICATION AGAINST THE OPERATOR.

25 2. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SECTION, NO OWNER OF A
26 VEHICLE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A MONETARY FINE IMPOSED PURSUANT TO THIS
27 SECTION IF THE OPERATOR OF SUCH VEHICLE WAS OPERATING SUCH VEHICLE WITH-
28 OUT THE CONSENT OF THE OWNER AT THE TIME SUCH OPERATOR FAILED TO OBEY A
29 TRAFFIC-CONTROL INDICATION. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION THERE SHALL
30 BE A PRESUMPTION THAT THE OPERATOR OF SUCH VEHICLE WAS OPERATING SUCH
31 VEHICLE WITH THE CONSENT OF THE OWNER AT THE TIME SUCH OPERATOR FAILED
32 TO OBEY A TRAFFIC-CONTROL INDICATION.

33 (L) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT THE LIABILITY
34 OF AN OPERATOR OF A VEHICLE FOR ANY VIOLATION OF SUBDIVISION (D) OF
35 SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED ELEVEN OF THIS ARTICLE.

36 (M) IN ANY SUCH CITY WHICH ADOPTS A DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM PURSUANT TO
37 SUBDIVISION (A) OF THIS SECTION, SUCH CITY SHALL SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT
38 ON THE RESULTS OF THE USE OF A TRAFFIC-CONTROL SIGNAL PHOTO
39 VIOLATION-MONITORING SYSTEM TO THE GOVERNOR, THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF
40 THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE JUNE FIRST, TWO
41 THOUSAND FOURTEEN AND ON THE SAME DATE IN EACH SUCCEEDING YEAR IN WHICH
42 THE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM IS OPERABLE. SUCH REPORT SHALL INCLUDE, BUT
43 NOT BE LIMITED TO:

44 1. A DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCATIONS WHERE TRAFFIC-CONTROL SIGNAL PHOTO
45 VIOLATION-MONITORING SYSTEMS WERE USED;

46 2. THE AGGREGATE NUMBER, TYPE AND SEVERITY OF ACCIDENTS REPORTED AT
47 INTERSECTIONS WHERE A TRAFFIC-CONTROL SIGNAL PHOTO VIOLATION-MONITORING
48 SYSTEM IS USED FOR THE YEAR PRECEDING THE INSTALLATION OF SUCH SYSTEM,
49 TO THE EXTENT THE INFORMATION IS MAINTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR
50 VEHICLES OF THIS STATE;

51 3. THE AGGREGATE NUMBER, TYPE AND SEVERITY OF ACCIDENTS REPORTED AT
52 INTERSECTIONS WHERE A TRAFFIC-CONTROL SIGNAL PHOTO VIOLATION-MONITORING
53 SYSTEM IS USED, TO THE EXTENT THE INFORMATION IS MAINTAINED BY THE
54 DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES OF THIS STATE;

1 4. THE NUMBER OF VIOLATIONS RECORDED AT EACH INTERSECTION WHERE A
2 TRAFFIC-CONTROL SIGNAL PHOTO VIOLATION-MONITORING SYSTEM IS USED AND IN
3 THE AGGREGATE ON A DAILY, WEEKLY AND MONTHLY BASIS;

4 5. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NOTICES OF LIABILITY ISSUED FOR VIOLATIONS
5 RECORDED BY SUCH SYSTEMS;

6 6. THE NUMBER OF FINES AND TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINES PAID AFTER FIRST
7 NOTICE OF LIABILITY ISSUED FOR VIOLATIONS RECORDED BY SUCH SYSTEMS;

8 7. THE NUMBER OF VIOLATIONS ADJUDICATED AND RESULTS OF SUCH ADJUDI-
9 CATIONS INCLUDING BREAKDOWNS OF DISPOSITIONS MADE FOR VIOLATIONS
10 RECORDED BY SUCH SYSTEMS;

11 8. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF REVENUE REALIZED BY SUCH CITY FROM SUCH ADJUDI-
12 CATIONS;

13 9. EXPENSES INCURRED BY SUCH CITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROGRAM; AND

14 10. QUALITY OF THE ADJUDICATION PROCESS AND ITS RESULTS.

15 (N) IT SHALL BE A DEFENSE TO ANY PROSECUTION FOR A VIOLATION OF
16 SUBDIVISION (D) OF SECTION ELEVEN HUNDRED ELEVEN OF THIS ARTICLE PURSU-
17 ANT TO A LOCAL LAW OR ORDINANCE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION THAT
18 SUCH TRAFFIC-CONTROL INDICATIONS WERE MALFUNCTIONING AT THE TIME OF THE
19 ALLEGED VIOLATION.

20 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.