STATE OF NEW YORK

6105

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 11, 2017

Introduced by Sen. BROOKS -- 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 establishing first responder safety zones

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section 141-c to read as follows:

§ 141-c. First responder safety zone. The area or space officially set apart within a roadway adjacent to any facility or parking area where fire vehicles, police vehicles, ambulances, or emergency ambulance service vehicles are stationed for use in responding to emergencies, and which is protected, marked or indicated by lines or other markings on the surface and by adequate signs as to be plainly visible at all times while set apart as a safety zone.

§ 2. Section 1144-a of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subdivision (d) to read as follows:

(d) During an active emergency, every operator of a motor vehicle shall yield the right of way to any fire vehicle, police vehicle, ambulance, or emergency ambulance service vehicle displaying one or more red, white, blue or green lights pursuant to the provisions of subdivision forty-one of section three hundred seventy-five of this chapter and traveling within or entering a first responder safety zone. A first violation of this provision shall be punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars. A second violation of this provision shall be punishable by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

§ 3. The section heading and subdivision (a) of section 1151 of the vehicle and traffic law, subdivision (a) as amended by chapter 159 of the laws of 2002, are amended to read as follows:

Pedestrians' right of way in crosswalks **and first responder safety zone**. (a) When traffic-control signals are not in place or not in oper-

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

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ation the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk **or first responder safety zone** on the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, except that any pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overpass has been provided shall yield the right of way to all vehicles.

§ 4. Paragraph (b) of section 1180 of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by chapter 173 of the laws of 1990, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Except as provided in subdivision (g) of this section and except when a special hazard exists that requires lower speed for compliance with subdivision (a) of this section or when maximum speed limits have been established as hereinafter authorized, no person shall drive a vehicle at a speed in excess of fifty-five miles per hour**, provided that no person shall drive a vehicle at a speed in excess of fifteen miles per hour within a first responder safety zone**.

§ 5. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section 1118 to read as follows:

§ 1118. Signs and markings in first responder safety zones. First responder safety zones shall be indicated with signage at each end of such safety zones, alerting motorists to the requirement that the right of way be yielded to pedestrians and emergency vehicles, and with white hash marks painted on the road surface between the curbs or, in the absence of curbs, between the edges of the traversable roadway.

§ 6. Paragraph b of subdivision two of section 510 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subparagraph (xviii) to read as follows:

(xviii) for a period of one year where the holder is convicted of a third or subsequent violation of section one thousand one hundred forty-four-a of this chapter.

§ 7. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law, and shall apply to violations committed on and after such date.