

STATE OF NEW YORK

5129

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 23, 2023

Introduced by Sen. WEBB -- 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 requiring an operator of a motor vehicle to exercise due care to avoid colliding with a disabled vehicle or a motor vehicle involved in an accident which is parked, stopped, or standing on the shoulder of a highway

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

1 Section 1. Section 1144-a of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended
2 by chapter 458 of the laws of 2011, the section heading as amended and
3 subdivision (c) as added by chapter 97 of the laws of 2016, subdivision
4 (a) as amended by chapter 248 of the laws of 2013, and subdivision (b)
5 as amended by chapter 504 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as
6 follows:
7 § 1144-a. Operation of vehicles when approaching a parked, stopped or
8 standing authorized emergency vehicle [~~ex~~], hazard vehicle [~~ex~~], vehicle
9 displaying a blue or green light or disabled vehicle. (a) Every operator
10 of a motor vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with an
11 authorized emergency vehicle which is parked, stopped or standing on the
12 shoulder or any portion of such highway and such authorized emergency
13 vehicle is displaying one or more red or combination red and white
14 lights pursuant to the provisions of paragraph two of subdivision
15 forty-one of section three hundred seventy-five of this chapter or is
16 displaying one or more blue, combination blue and red or combination
17 blue, red and white lights pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph b
18 of paragraph four of subdivision forty-one of section three hundred
19 seventy-five of this chapter. For operators of motor vehicles on park-
20 ways or controlled access highways, such due care shall include, but not
21 be limited to, moving from a lane which contains or is immediately adja-
22 cent to the shoulder where such authorized emergency vehicle displaying
23 one or more red, blue or white or any combination of red and white

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

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1 lights or blue or combination blue and red or combination blue, red and
2 white lights pursuant to the provisions of paragraph two or subparagraph
3 b of paragraph four, as applicable of subdivision forty-one of section
4 three hundred seventy-five of this chapter is parked, stopped or stand-
5 ing to another lane, provided that such movement otherwise complies with
6 the requirements of this chapter including, but not limited to, the
7 provisions of sections eleven hundred ten of this title and eleven
8 hundred twenty-eight of this title.

9 (b) Every operator of a motor vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid
10 colliding with a hazard vehicle which is parked, stopped or standing on
11 the shoulder or on any portion of such highway and such hazard vehicle
12 is displaying one or more amber lights pursuant to the provisions of
13 paragraph three of subdivision forty-one of section three hundred seven-
14 ty-five of this chapter or, if such hazard vehicle is designed for the
15 towing or pushing of disabled vehicles such hazard vehicle is displaying
16 one or more amber lights or one or more blue or combination blue and
17 amber lights pursuant to the provisions of paragraph three or subpara-
18 graph b-1 of paragraph four, as applicable, of subdivision forty-one of
19 section three hundred seventy-five of this chapter or, if such hazard
20 vehicle owned and operated by the state or by a county, city, town or
21 village is designed for the removal of ice and snow such hazard vehicle
22 is displaying one or more amber lights or one or more green or combina-
23 tion green and amber lights pursuant to the provisions of paragraph
24 three or subparagraph (c) of paragraph five, as applicable, of subdivi-
25 sion forty-one of section three hundred seventy-five of this chapter.
26 For operators of motor vehicles on parkways or controlled access high-
27 ways, such due care shall include, but not be limited to, moving from a
28 lane which contains or is immediately adjacent to the shoulder where (i)
29 such hazard vehicle displaying one or more amber lights pursuant to the
30 provisions of paragraph three of subdivision forty-one of section three
31 hundred seventy-five of this chapter or (ii) such hazard vehicle
32 designed for the towing or pushing of disabled vehicles displaying one
33 or more amber lights or one or more blue or combination blue and amber
34 lights pursuant to the provisions of paragraph three or subparagraph b-1
35 of paragraph four, as applicable, of subdivision forty-one of section
36 three hundred seventy-five of this chapter or (iii) such hazard vehicle
37 owned and operated by the state or by a county, city, town or village is
38 displaying one or more amber lights or one or more green or combination
39 green and amber lights pursuant to the provisions of paragraph three or
40 subparagraph (c) of paragraph five, as applicable, of subdivision
41 forty-one of section three hundred seventy-five of this chapter, is
42 parked, stopped or standing to another lane, provided that such movement
43 otherwise complies with the requirements of this chapter including, but
44 not limited to, the provisions of sections eleven hundred ten and eleven
45 hundred twenty-eight of this title.

46 (c) Every operator of a motor vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid
47 colliding with a vehicle displaying a blue light pursuant to the
48 provisions of paragraph four or a green light pursuant to the provisions
49 of paragraph five of subdivision forty-one of section three hundred
50 seventy-five of this chapter which is parked, stopped or standing on the
51 shoulder or any portion of such highway. For operators of motor vehicles
52 on parkways or controlled access highways, such due care shall include,
53 but not be limited to, moving from a lane which contains or is imme-
54 diately adjacent to the shoulder where such vehicle displaying a blue
55 light pursuant to the provisions of paragraph four or a green light
56 pursuant to the provisions of paragraph five of subdivision forty-one of

1 section three hundred seventy-five of this chapter is parked, stopped or
2 standing to another lane, provided that such movement otherwise complies
3 with the requirements of this chapter including, but not limited to, the
4 provisions of sections eleven hundred ten and eleven hundred twenty-
5 eight of this title.

6 (d) Every operator of a motor vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid
7 colliding with a disabled vehicle or a motor vehicle involved in an
8 accident which is parked, stopped or standing on the shoulder or any
9 portion of such highway. For operators of motor vehicles on parkways or
10 controlled access highways, such due care shall include, but not be
11 limited to, moving from a lane which contains or is immediately adjacent
12 to the shoulder where such disabled vehicle or motor vehicle involved in
13 an accident is parked, stopped or standing to another lane, provided
14 that such movement otherwise complies with the requirements of this
15 chapter including, but not limited to, the provisions of sections eleven
16 hundred ten and eleven hundred twenty-eight of this title.

17 § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
18 it shall have become a law.