

STATE OF NEW YORK

7064--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 17, 2023

Introduced by Sen. MARTINS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation -- recommitted to the Committee on Transportation in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to owner liability for failure of an operator to comply with stop signs in designated villages located within the counties of Nassau and Suffolk

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

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "protect
2 our pedestrians (POP) act".

3 § 2. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section
4 1174-b to read as follows:

5 § 1174-b. Owner liability for failure of operator to stop for a stop
6 sign in the village of Upper Brookville, the village of Flower Hill or
7 the village of East Hampton (each, a "village"). (a) Notwithstanding any
8 other provision of law, any village located within the county of Nassau
9 is hereby authorized and empowered to adopt and amend a local law or
10 ordinance establishing a demonstration program imposing monetary liabil-
11 ity on the owner of a vehicle for failure of an operator thereof to
12 comply with subdivision (a) of section eleven hundred seventy-two of
13 this article. Such demonstration program shall empower such village to
14 install and operate stop sign photo violation monitoring systems which
15 may be stationary or mobile, and which may be installed on stop signs
16 within the boundaries of such village.

17 (b) Such demonstration program shall utilize necessary technologies to
18 ensure, to the extent practicable, that photographs produced by such
19 stop sign photo violation monitoring systems shall not include images
20 that identify the driver, the passengers, or the contents of the vehi-
21 cle. Provided, however, that no notice of liability issued pursuant to

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

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1 this section shall be dismissed solely because a photograph or photo-
2 graphs allow for the identification of the driver, passengers, or the
3 contents of a vehicle, provided that such village has made a reasonable
4 effort to comply with the provisions of this paragraph.

5 (c) In any such village 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 (a) of section eleven hundred
10 seventy-two of this article, and such violation is evidenced by informa-
11 tion obtained from a stop sign photo violation monitoring system.

12 (d) For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the
13 following meanings:

14 1. "Owner" shall have the meaning as defined pursuant to section two
15 hundred thirty-nine of this chapter.

16 2. "Village" shall mean the village of Flower Hill, the village of
17 Upper Brookville or the village of East Hampton.

18 3. "Stop sign photo violation monitoring system" shall mean a vehicle
19 sensor installed to work in conjunction with a stop sign which automat-
20 ically produces two or more photographs, two or more microphotographs, a
21 videotape or other recorded images of each vehicle at the time it is
22 used or operated in violation of subdivision (a) of section eleven
23 hundred seventy-two of this article.

24 4. "Operator" means any person, corporation, firm, partnership, agen-
25 cy, association, organization or lessee that uses or operates a vehicle
26 with or without the permission of the owner, and an owner who operates
27 his or her own vehicle.

28 (e) A certificate, sworn to or affirmed by a technician employed by
29 the village in which the charged violation occurred, or a facsimile
30 thereof, based upon inspection of photographs, microphotographs, vide-
31 otape or other recorded images produced by a stop sign photo violation
32 monitoring system, shall be prima facie evidence of the facts contained
33 therein. Any photographs, microphotographs, videotape or other recorded
34 images evidencing such a violation shall be available for inspection in
35 any proceeding to adjudicate the liability for such violation pursuant
36 to a local law or ordinance adopted pursuant to this section.

37 (f) An owner liable for a violation of subdivision (a) of section
38 eleven hundred seventy-two of this article pursuant to a local law or
39 ordinance adopted pursuant to this section shall be liable for monetary
40 penalties in accordance with a schedule of fines and penalties to be set
41 forth in such local law or ordinance. The liability of the owner pursu-
42 ant to this section shall not exceed fifty dollars for each violation;
43 provided, however, that such local law or ordinance may provide for an
44 additional penalty not in excess of twenty-five dollars for each
45 violation for the failure to respond to a notice of liability within the
46 prescribed time period.

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

52 (h) 1. A notice of liability shall be sent by first class mail to each
53 person alleged to be liable as an owner for a violation of subdivision
54 (a) of section eleven hundred seventy-two of this article pursuant to
55 this section. Personal delivery on the owner shall not be required. A

1 manual or automatic record of mailing prepared in the ordinary course of
2 business shall be prima facie evidence of the facts contained therein.

3 2. A notice of liability shall contain the name and address of the
4 person alleged to be liable as an owner for a violation of subdivision
5 (a) of section eleven hundred seventy-two of this article pursuant to
6 this section, the registration number of the vehicle involved in such
7 violation, the location where such violation took place, the date and
8 time of such violation and the identification number of the camera which
9 recorded the violation or other document locator number.

10 3. The notice of liability shall contain information advising the
11 person charged of the manner and the time in which he or she may contest
12 the liability alleged in the notice. Such notice of liability shall also
13 contain a warning to advise the persons charged that failure to contest
14 in the manner and time provided shall be deemed an admission of liabil-
15 ity and that a default judgment may be entered thereon.

16 4. The notice of liability shall be prepared and mailed by the village
17 where the alleged violation occurred or by any other entity authorized
18 by such village to prepare and mail such notification of violation.

19 (i) Adjudication of the liability imposed upon owners by this section
20 shall be by the court having jurisdiction over traffic infractions.

21 (j) If an owner receives a notice of liability pursuant to this
22 section for any time period during which the vehicle was reported to the
23 police department as having been stolen, it shall be a valid defense to
24 an allegation of liability for a violation of subdivision (a) of section
25 eleven hundred seventy-two of this article pursuant to this section that
26 the vehicle had been reported to the police as stolen prior to the time
27 the violation occurred and had not been recovered by such time. For
28 purposes of asserting the defense provided by this subdivision, it shall
29 be sufficient that a certified copy of the police report on the stolen
30 vehicle be sent by first class mail to the traffic violations bureau or
31 court having jurisdiction.

32 (k) An owner who is a lessor of a vehicle to which a notice of liabil-
33 ity was issued pursuant to subdivision (h) of this section shall not be
34 liable for the violation of subdivision (a) of section eleven hundred
35 seventy-two of this article, provided that he or she sends to the traf-
36 fic violations bureau or court having jurisdiction a copy of the rental,
37 lease or other such contract document covering such vehicle on the date
38 of the violation, with the name and address of the lessee clearly legi-
39 ble, within thirty-seven days after receiving notice from the bureau or
40 court of the date and time of such violation, together with the other
41 information contained in the original notice of liability. Failure to
42 send such information within such thirty-seven day time period shall
43 render the owner liable for the penalty prescribed by this section.
44 Where the lessor complies with the provisions of this subdivision, the
45 lessee of such vehicle on the date of such violation shall be deemed to
46 be the owner of such vehicle for purposes of this section, shall be
47 subject to liability for the violation of subdivision (a) of section
48 eleven hundred seventy-two of this article pursuant to this section and
49 shall be sent a notice of liability pursuant to subdivision (h) of this
50 section.

51 (l) 1. If the owner liable for a violation of subdivision (a) of
52 section eleven hundred seventy-two of this article pursuant to this
53 section was not the operator of the vehicle at the time of the
54 violation, the owner may maintain an action for indemnification against
55 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 stop sign. 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 stop sign.

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

(n) Any village that adopts a demonstration program pursuant to subdivision (a) of this section shall submit an annual report detailing the results of the use of such stop sign photo violation monitoring system to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly on or before the first day of June next succeeding the effective date of this section 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 stop sign photo violation monitoring systems were used;

2. the aggregate number, type and severity of accidents reported at intersections where a stop sign photo violation monitoring system is used for the three years preceding the installation of such system, to the extent the information is maintained by the department;

3. the aggregate number, type and severity of accidents reported at intersections where a stop sign photo violation monitoring system is used for the reporting year, as well as for each year that the stop sign photo violation monitoring system has been operational, to the extent the information is maintained by the department;

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

5. the number of notices of liability issued for violations recorded by such system at each intersection where a stop sign photo violation monitoring system is used;

6. the number of fines imposed and total amount of fines paid after first notice of liability;

7. the number and percentage of violations adjudicated and results of such adjudications including breakdowns of dispositions made for violations recorded by such systems which shall be provided at least annually to such village by the respective courts and bureaus conducting such adjudications;

8. the total amount of revenue realized by such village from such adjudications including a breakdown of revenue realized by such village for each year since deployment of its stop sign photo violation monitoring system;

9. expenses incurred by such village in connection with the program; and

10. quality of the adjudication process and its results which shall be provided at least annually to such village by the respective courts conducting such adjudications.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.