

# STATE OF NEW YORK

7608

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

April 1, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law and the public officers law, in relation to owner liability for failure of an operator to comply with stop signs in the village of Round Lake, county of Saratoga; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

1 Section 1. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new  
2 section 1172-a to read as follows:

3 § 1172-a. Owner liability for failure of operator to stop for a stop  
4 sign. (a) 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the village of  
5 Round Lake, county of Saratoga, 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 stop for a stop sign in such village in  
9 accordance with the provisions of this section. Such demonstration  
10 program shall empower such village to install and operate stop sign  
11 photo violation monitoring devices at no more than five intersections  
12 within and under the jurisdiction of such village at any one time;  
13 provided, however, that where one of the two highways joining one another  
14 at such intersection is a state highway maintained by the state, such  
15 village may install and operate such stop sign photo violation monitor-  
16 ing device in a manner affecting traffic proceeding along such state  
17 highway at such intersection if it has obtained approval in writing from  
18 the department of transportation, and the department of transportation  
19 may at any time rescind or modify such approval.

20 2. Such demonstration program shall utilize necessary technologies to  
21 ensure, to the extent practicable, that photographs produced by such  
22 stop sign photo violation monitoring devices shall not include images  
23 that identify the driver, the passengers, or the contents of the vehi-

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

LBD11162-02-5

1 cle. Provided, however, that no notice of liability issued pursuant to  
2 this section shall be dismissed solely because a photograph or photo-  
3 graphs allow for the identification of the contents of a vehicle,  
4 provided that such village has made a reasonable effort to comply with  
5 the provisions of this paragraph.

6 (b) In any such village which has adopted a local law or ordinance  
7 pursuant to subdivision (a) of this section, the owner of a vehicle  
8 shall be liable for a penalty imposed pursuant to this section if such  
9 vehicle was used or operated with the permission of the owner, express  
10 or implied, in violation of subdivision (a) of section eleven hundred  
11 seventy-two of this article, and such violation is evidenced by informa-  
12 tion obtained from a stop sign photo violation monitoring device;  
13 provided however that no owner of a vehicle shall be liable for a penal-  
14 ty imposed pursuant to this section where the operator of such vehicle  
15 has been convicted of the underlying violation of subdivision (a) of  
16 section eleven hundred seventy-two of this article.

17 (c) For purposes of this section, "owner" shall have the meaning  
18 provided in article two-B of this chapter. For purposes of this section,  
19 "stop sign photo violation monitoring device" shall mean a vehicle  
20 sensor installed to work in conjunction with a stop sign which automat-  
21 ically produces two or more photographs, two or more microphotographs, a  
22 videotape or other recorded images of each vehicle at the time it is  
23 used or operated in violation of subdivision (a) of section eleven  
24 hundred seventy-two of this article.

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

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

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

50 (g) 1. A notice of liability shall be sent by first class mail to each  
51 person alleged to be liable as an owner for a violation of subdivision  
52 (a) of section eleven hundred seventy-two of this article pursuant to  
53 this section. Personal delivery on the owner shall not be required. A  
54 manual or automatic record of mailing prepared in the ordinary course of  
55 business shall be prima facie evidence of the facts contained therein.

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

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

14 4. The notice of liability shall be prepared and mailed by the village  
15 of Round Lake or by any other entity authorized by such village to  
16 prepare and mail such notification of violation.

17 (h) Adjudication of the liability imposed upon owners by this section  
18 shall be by a traffic violations bureau established pursuant to section  
19 three hundred seventy of the general municipal law or, if there be none,  
20 by the court having jurisdiction over traffic infractions.

21 (i) 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 (j) An owner who is a lessor of a vehicle to which a notice of liabil-  
33 ity was issued pursuant to subdivision (g) 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 they send to the traffic  
36 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 (g) of this  
50 section.

51 (k) 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.

1 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no owner of a  
2 vehicle shall be subject to a monetary fine imposed pursuant to this  
3 section if the operator of such vehicle was operating such vehicle with-  
4 out the consent of the owner at the time such operator failed to stop  
5 for a stop sign. For purposes of this subdivision there shall be a  
6 presumption that the operator of such vehicle was operating such vehicle  
7 with the consent of the owner at the time such operator failed to stop  
8 for a stop sign.

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

12 (m) Any village that adopts a demonstration program pursuant to subdi-  
13 vision (a) of this section shall submit an annual report detailing the  
14 results of the use of such stop sign photo violation monitoring devices  
15 to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker  
16 of the assembly on or before the first day of June next succeeding the  
17 effective date of this section and on the same date in each succeeding  
18 year in which the demonstration program is operable. Such report shall  
19 include, but not be limited to:

20 1. a description of the locations where stop sign photo violation  
21 monitoring devices were used;

22 2. the aggregate number, type and severity of accidents reported at  
23 intersections where a stop sign photo violation monitoring device is  
24 used for the three years preceding the installation of such devices, to  
25 the extent the information is maintained by the department of motor  
26 vehicles of this state;

27 3. the aggregate number, type and severity of accidents reported at  
28 intersections where a stop sign photo violation monitoring device is  
29 used for the reporting year, as well as for each year that the stop sign  
30 photo violation monitoring device has been operational, to the extent  
31 the information is maintained by the department of motor vehicles of  
32 this state;

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

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

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

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

46 8. the total amount of revenue realized by such village from such  
47 adjudications including a breakdown of revenue realized by such village  
48 for each year since deployment of its stop sign photo violation monitor-  
49 ing devices;

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

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

55 § 2. Subdivision 2 of section 87 of the public officers law is amended  
56 by adding a new paragraph (v) to read as follows:

1 (v) are photographs, microphotographs, videotape or other recorded  
2 images prepared under authority of section eleven hundred seventy-two-a  
3 of the vehicle and traffic law.

4 § 3. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall  
5 have become a law and shall expire and be deemed repealed five years  
6 after such date.