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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, Felag, and Walaska

Date Introduced: March 06, 2013

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(Transportation)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-13-6 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-13 entitled "Traffic  
2 Control Devices" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 ~~**31-13-6. Specifications and meaning of traffic lights**~~ **Meaning of traffic control**  
4 **signals. --** ~~Whenever traffic is controlled by traffic control signals exhibiting the words "go",  
5 "caution", or "stop", or exhibiting different colored lights successively one at a time, or with  
6 arrows, the following colors only shall be used, and the terms and lights shall indicate and apply  
7 to drivers of vehicles and pedestrians as follows:~~

8 (1) ~~Green alone or "go."~~

9 ~~(i) Vehicular traffic facing the signal may proceed straight through or turn right or left  
10 unless a sign at the place prohibits either a right or left turn. But vehicular traffic, including  
11 vehicles turning right or left, shall yield the right of way to other vehicles and to pedestrians  
12 lawfully within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk at the time the signal is exhibited.~~

13 ~~(ii) Pedestrians facing the signal may proceed across the roadway within any marked or  
14 unmarked crosswalk.~~

15 (2) ~~Yellow alone or "caution" when shown following the green or "go" signal.~~

16 ~~(i) Vehicular traffic facing the signal is warned by it that the red or "stop" signal will be  
17 exhibited immediately afterwards, and the vehicular traffic shall not enter or be crossing the  
18 intersection when the red or "stop" signal is exhibited.~~

19 ~~(ii) Pedestrians facing the signal are advised by it that there is insufficient time to cross~~

1 ~~the roadway, and any pedestrian then starting to cross shall yield the right of way to all vehicles.~~

2 ~~(3) Red alone or "stop."~~

3 ~~(i) Vehicular traffic facing the signal shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near~~  
4 ~~side of the intersection or, if none, then before entering the intersection, and shall remain standing~~  
5 ~~until the green or "go" is shown alone, and shall not, prior to reaching the intersection, make any~~  
6 ~~turn over or through private property in order to avoid the signal. A right hand turn shall be~~  
7 ~~permitted after vehicular traffic reaches a complete stop, at intersections when safety would~~  
8 ~~permit the a turn and no sign forbids it. Violations of this section are subject to fines enumerated~~  
9 ~~in section 31-41.1-4.~~

10 ~~(ii) No pedestrian facing the signal shall enter the roadway unless he or she can do so~~  
11 ~~safely and without interfering with any vehicular traffic.~~

12 ~~(4) Red with green arrow.~~

13 ~~(i) Vehicular traffic facing the signal may cautiously enter the intersection only to make~~  
14 ~~the movement indicated by the arrow, but shall yield the right of way to pedestrians lawfully~~  
15 ~~within a crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.~~

16 ~~(ii) No pedestrian facing the signal shall enter the roadway unless he or she can do so~~  
17 ~~safely and without interfering with any vehicular traffic.~~

18 ~~(5) Red arrow.~~

19 ~~(i) Vehicular traffic facing the signal shall stop and shall remain standing until the red~~  
20 ~~arrow turns green.~~

21 Traffic control signals shall have the following meanings for vehicles and pedestrians:

22 (1) Steady green signals shall have the following meanings:

23 (i) Vehicular traffic facing a circular green signal is permitted to proceed straight through  
24 or turn right or left or make a U-turn movement, except as such movement is prohibited by lane-  
25 use signs, turn prohibition signs, lane markings, separate turn signal, or other traffic control  
26 devices.

27 (A) Vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left or making a U-turn  
28 movement, shall yield the right-of-way to:

29 (I) Pedestrians lawfully within an associated crosswalk; and

30 (II) Other vehicles lawfully within the intersection.

31 (B) Vehicular traffic turning left or making a U-turn movement to the left shall yield the  
32 right-of-way to other vehicles approaching from the opposite direction so closely as to constitute  
33 an immediate hazard during the time when such turning vehicle is moving across or within the  
34 intersection.

1           (ii) Pedestrians facing a circular green signal, unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian  
2 signal or other traffic control device are permitted to proceed across the roadway within any  
3 marked or unmarked associated crosswalk. The pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles  
4 lawfully within the intersection or so close as to create an immediate hazard at the time that the  
5 green signal is first displayed.

6           (iii) Vehicular traffic facing a green arrow signal, displayed alone or in combination with  
7 another signal is permitted to cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement  
8 indicated by such arrow, or such other movement as is permitted by other signals displayed at the  
9 same time.

10          (A) Vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left or making a U-turn  
11 movement, shall yield the right-of-way to:

12           (I) Pedestrians lawfully within an associated crosswalk; and

13           (II) Other vehicles lawfully within the intersection.

14          (iv) Pedestrians facing a green arrow signal, unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian  
15 signal or other traffic control device, shall not cross the roadway.

16          (2) Steady yellow signals shall have the following meanings:

17           (i) Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular yellow signal is warned that the related green  
18 movement is being terminated and that a steady red signal will be displayed immediately  
19 thereafter when vehicular traffic shall not enter the intersection. The rules set forth concerning  
20 vehicular operation under the movement(s) being terminated shall continue to apply while the  
21 steady circular yellow signal indication is displayed.

22           (ii) Vehicular traffic facing a steady yellow arrow signal is warned that the related green  
23 arrow movement or the related flashing arrow movement is being terminated. The rules set forth  
24 concerning vehicular operation under the movement(s) being terminated shall continue to apply  
25 while the steady yellow arrow signal is displayed.

26           (iii) Pedestrians facing a steady circular yellow or yellow arrow signal, unless otherwise  
27 directed by a pedestrian signal or other traffic control device shall not start to cross the roadway.

28          (3) Steady red signals shall have the following meanings:

29           (i) Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular red signal, unless entering the intersection to  
30 make another movement permitted by another signal, shall stop at a clearly marked stop line; but  
31 if there is no stop line, traffic shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the  
32 intersection; or if there is no crosswalk, then before entering the intersection; and shall remain  
33 stopped until a signal to proceed is displayed, or as provided below:

34           (A) Except when a traffic control device is in a place prohibiting a turn on red or a steady

1 red arrow signal is displayed, vehicular traffic facing a steady circular red signal is permitted to  
2 enter the intersection to turn right. The right to proceed with the turn shall be subject to the rules  
3 applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.

4 (ii) Vehicular traffic facing a steady red arrow signal shall not enter the intersection to  
5 make the movement indicated by the arrow, unless entering the intersection to make another  
6 movement permitted by another signal, and shall stop at a clearly marked stop line; but if there is  
7 no stop line, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection; or if there is no  
8 crosswalk, then before entering the intersection; and shall remain stopped until a signal or other  
9 traffic control device permitting the movement indicated by such red arrow is displayed.

10 (iii) Pedestrians facing a steady circular red or steady red arrow signal shall not enter the  
11 roadway, unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian signal or other traffic control device.

12 (4) Flashing yellow signals shall have the following meanings:

13 (i) Vehicular traffic on an approach to an intersection facing a flashing circular yellow  
14 signal is permitted to cautiously enter the intersection to proceed straight through or turn right or  
15 left or make a U-turn except as such movement is prohibited by lane-use signs, turn prohibition  
16 signs, lane markings, turn signals, or other traffic control devices.

17 (A) Such vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left or making a U-turn,  
18 shall yield the right-of-way to:

19 (I) Pedestrians lawfully within an associated crosswalk; and

20 (II) Other vehicles lawfully within the intersection.

21 (B) Vehicular traffic turning left or making a U-turn to the left shall yield the right-of-  
22 way to other vehicles approaching from the opposite direction so closely as to constitute an  
23 immediate hazard during the time when such turning vehicle is moving across or within the  
24 intersection.

25 (2) When a flashing circular yellow signal(s) is displayed as a beacon to supplement  
26 another traffic control device, road users are notified that there is a need to pay extra attention to  
27 the message contained thereon or that the regulatory or warning requirements of the other traffic  
28 control device, which may not be applicable at all times, are currently in force.

29 (3) Vehicular traffic, on an approach to an intersection facing a flashing yellow arrow  
30 signal, displayed alone or in combination with another signal is permitted to cautiously enter the  
31 intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow, or other such movement as is  
32 permitted by other signal displayed at the same time.

33 (i) Vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left or making a U-turn, shall  
34 yield the right-of-way to:

1 (A) Pedestrians lawfully within an associated crosswalk; and

2 (B) Other vehicles lawfully within the intersection.

3 (I) Vehicular traffic turning left or making a U-turn to the left shall yield the right-of-way  
4 to other vehicles approaching from the opposite direction so closely as to constitute an immediate  
5 hazard during the time when such turning vehicle is moving across or within the intersection.

6 (4) Pedestrians facing any flashing yellow signal at an intersection, unless otherwise  
7 directed by a pedestrian signal or other traffic control device are permitted to proceed across the  
8 roadway within any marked or unmarked associated crosswalk. Pedestrians shall yield the right-  
9 of-way to vehicles lawfully within the intersection at the time that the flashing yellow signal is  
10 first displayed.

11 (5) Flashing red signals shall have the following meanings:

12 (i) Vehicular traffic, on an approach to an intersection, facing a flashing circular red  
13 signal shall stop at a clearly marked stop line; but if there is no stop line, before entering the  
14 crosswalk on the near side of the intersection; or if there is no crosswalk, at the point nearest the  
15 intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting  
16 roadway before entering the intersection. The right to proceed shall be subject to the rules  
17 applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.

18 (ii) When a flashing circular red signal(s) is displayed as a beacon to supplement another  
19 traffic control device, road users are notified that there is a need to pay extra attention to the  
20 message contained thereon or that the regulatory requirements of the other traffic control device,  
21 which may not be applicable at all times, are currently in force.

22 (iii) Vehicular traffic, on an approach to an intersection, facing a flashing red arrow  
23 signal if intending to turn in the direction indicated by the arrow shall stop at a clearly marked  
24 stop line; but if there is no stop line, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the  
25 intersection; or if there is no crosswalk, at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the  
26 driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering the  
27 intersection. The right to proceed with the turn shall be limited to the direction indicated by the  
28 arrow and shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.

29 (iv) Pedestrians facing any flashing red signal at an intersection, unless otherwise  
30 directed by a pedestrian control signal or other traffic control device, are permitted to proceed  
31 across the roadway within any marked or unmarked associated crosswalk. Pedestrians shall yield  
32 the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully within the intersection at the time that the flashing red signal  
33 is first displayed.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

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1           This act would update outdated and inapplicable provisions of the Rhode Island general  
2 laws to correspond with the standards for the meaning of traffic signals as included in the Manual  
3 on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), which is published by the U.S. Department of  
4 Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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