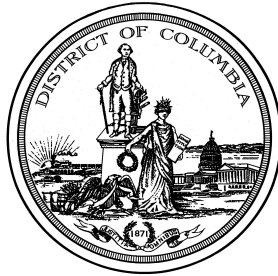


DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

City Council



Ordinance No. 0004

Introduced by: Councilman Blueismmm

Suggested by: RockyHarlaw

An ordinance for an Act entitled: "Minor Traffic Infractions and Penalties Act"

AN ACT to amend Chapter 5 of the D.C. Criminal Code to include minor traffic infractions, such as failing to signal, failing to stop at a stop sign, running a red light, and failure to use headlights, with specific penalties at the discretion of the enforcing officer.

Section 1 – Definitions

- a. **Failure to signal** – The act of not using a vehicle's turn signal at least 100 feet before making a lane change, turn, or merge, as required by law.
- b. **Running a stop sign** – Failing to come to a complete stop at a clearly marked stop sign, including all four wheels ceasing movement, before proceeding.
- c. **Running a red light** – Entering or crossing an intersection after the traffic light has turned red in a motor vehicle.

- d. **No headlights** – Operating a vehicle without its headlights turned on between sunset and sunrise, or in conditions of low visibility, such as rain, fog, or snow, when the use of headlights is legally required.
 - e. **Failure to yield to emergency vehicles** – Not pulling over or stopping when an emergency vehicle is approaching with lights and sirens active, as required by law.
 - f. **Impediment of traffic** – Driving 15 below the posted speed limit, particularly in a manner that disrupts the normal flow of traffic or causes a safety hazard. Or deliberately stopping on a roadway, obstructing traffic.
 - g. **Driving in a bicycle lane** – Operating a motor vehicle in a lane designated exclusively for bicycles, except when making a right turn, parking, or entering/exiting a roadway, and only after yielding.
 - h. **Blocking an intersection** – Entering an intersection when there isn't enough space to clear the intersection before the light changes, causing traffic to become obstructed. This includes stopping within the boundaries of an intersection or crosswalk and impeding the flow of traffic from other directions, regardless of the traffic signal.
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Section 2 – Amendment to Chapter 5 of the D.C. Criminal Code ("Fiscal, Traffic, and Character Offenses")

- a. The following are classified as minor traffic infractions under the District of Columbia Criminal Code, with penalties assigned based on the discretion of the enforcing officer and that listed below.
- b. **Failing to signal when changing lanes or turning:**

Fine ranging from \$100 to \$150, depending on the officer's discretion and circumstances of the offense.
- c. **Failing to stop at a stop sign:**

Fine ranging from \$100 to \$120, based on officer discretion and any additional safety concerns.

d. Running a red light:

Fine ranging from \$150 to \$250, determined by officer discretion and severity of the violation.

e. Failure to use headlights:

Fine ranging from \$50 to \$150, depending on conditions, time of the offense, and officer discretion.

f. Blocking an intersection:

Fine ranging from \$100 to \$250, based on officer discretion.

g. Failure to yield to emergency vehicles:

Fine ranging from \$100 to \$250, depending on officer discretion and situation.

h. Impediment of traffic:

Fine ranging from \$50 to \$100, depending on officer discretion.

i. Driving in a bicycle lane:

Fine ranging from \$10 to \$50, depending on the officer's discretion.

Section 3 – Enforcement Procedures

- a. The enforcement of traffic infractions listed in Section 1 and Section 2 shall be conducted by authorized law enforcement officers within the District of Columbia.
- b. Law enforcement officers have the discretion to issue a citation depending on the circumstances, driver behavior, and any mitigating or aggravating factors observed during the stop.
- c. In instances where multiple infractions occur simultaneously, officers may issue citations for each infraction separately, within the specified fine range.
- d. Law enforcement officers may utilize traffic cameras, radar devices, or other technologies to monitor and enforce the infractions listed in Section 1.
- e. All law enforcement agencies operating within the District of Columbia are responsible for ensuring that their personnel adhere to the enforcement procedures outlined in this Act. Departments must implement policies to prevent abuse of discretion when issuing penalties, ensuring fair and consistent application of the law. Regular audits and training programs should be in place to ensure officers are acting within their authority and following departmental guidelines although this is not required.

Section 4 – Implementation

- a. All infractions listed, along with their associated penalties and definitions outlined in Section 1, shall be formally added to Chapter 5 of the D.C. Criminal Code ("Fiscal, Traffic, and Character Offenses"), specifically under the traffic section. These additions will ensure that minor traffic infractions are codified and enforceable under the existing legal framework of the District of Columbia.
- b. This amendment to the D.C. Criminal Code, as outlined in this Act, must be passed with a unanimous vote of the City Council, in accordance with D.C. Criminal Code § 1.03—Amendments and Repeals. Any future amendments to this Act shall also require a unanimous vote of the City Council.
- c. This Act shall have a 7-day grace period following its approval. During this time, law enforcement officers shall only issue warnings for violations rather than imposing penalties to allow for public adjustment to the new regulations, the Metropolitan Police Department should inform residents of these new infractions.
- d. The provisions of this Act may be amended at any time, provided that such amendments are introduced and passed by a unanimous vote of the City Council and approved by the Mayor of the District of Columbia. No portion of this Act can be altered or repealed without this unanimous consent.

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