AN ACT
RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PASSING, USING OF LANES, AND RULES OF THE ROAD

 Introduced By: Representatives Corvese, Malik, Palangio, Ucci, and Azzinaro

 Date Introduced: January 10, 2013

 Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 31-15-12.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-15 entitled “Passing, Use of Lanes, and Rules of the Road” is hereby amended to read as follows:

31-15-12.1. Entering intersections. -- (a) The driver of a motor vehicle shall not enter an intersection whether or not any traffic signal is green unless there is sufficient space in the roadway he or she is about to enter beyond the intersection to receive his or her vehicle without blocking the intersection. Violations of this section are subject to fines enumerated in section 31-41.1-4.

(b) When bodily injury of any person other than the operator of any motor vehicle is caused by violation of this section, the person so operating the vehicle shall be fined two hundred dollars ($200). When serious bodily injury of any person other than the operator of any motor vehicle is caused by violation of this section, the person so operating the vehicle shall be fined five hundred dollars ($500) and his/her driver's license shall be suspended for a period of three months. When the death of any person other than the operator of any motor vehicle is caused by violation of this section, the person so operating the vehicle shall be fined one thousand dollars ($1,000) and his/her driver's license shall be suspended for a period of one year.

(c) As used in this section, "serious bodily injury" means physical injury that creates a substantial risk of death or causes serious physical disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.
SECTION 2. Sections 31-17-1, 31-17-2, 31-17-4, 31-17-7 and 31-17-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-17 entitled "Right-of-Way" are hereby amended to read as follows:

31-17-1. Right-of-way in absence of signs or signals. -- (a) The driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to a vehicle which has entered the intersection from a different highway.

(b) When two vehicles enter an intersection from different highways at approximately the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left shall yield the right-of-way to the vehicle on the right.

(c) The right-of-way rules declared in subsections (a) and (b) of this section are modified at through highways and otherwise as stated in this chapter.

(d) Violations of this section are subject to the fines enumerated in section 31-41.1-4.

(e) When bodily injury of any person other than the operator of any motor vehicle is caused by violation of this section, the person so operating the vehicle shall be fined two hundred dollars ($200). When serious bodily injury of any person other than the operator of any motor vehicle is caused by violation of this section, the person so operating the vehicle shall be fined five hundred dollars ($500) and his/her driver's license shall be suspended for a period of three months. When the death of any person other than the operator of any motor vehicle is caused by violation of this section, the person so operating the vehicle shall be fined one thousand dollars ($1,000) and his/her driver's license shall be suspended for a period of one year.

(f) As used in this section, "serious bodily injury" means physical injury that creates a substantial risk of death or causes serious physical disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

31-17-2. Vehicle turning left or right. -- (a) The driver of a vehicle within an intersection intended to turn to the left or right shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction which is within the intersection or so close to it as to constitute an immediate hazard, or shall yield to a pedestrian intending to cross within a crosswalk which the driver of the vehicle must travel to make the left or right turn. The driver, having so yielded and having given a signal when and as required by chapter 16 of this title, may make the left or right turn, and the drivers of all other vehicles approaching the intersection from the opposite direction shall yield the right of way to the vehicle making the left or right turn.

Violations of this section are subject to the fines enumerated in section 31-41.1-4.

(b) When bodily injury of any person other than the operator of any motor vehicle is caused by violation of this section, the person so operating the vehicle shall be fined two hundred dollars ($200). When serious bodily injury of any person other than the operator of any motor
vehicle is caused by violation of this section, the person so operating the vehicle shall be fined
five hundred dollars ($500) and his/her driver's license shall be suspended for a period of three
(3) months. When the death of any person other than the operator of any motor vehicle is caused
by violation of this section, the person so operating the vehicle shall be fined one thousand dollars
($1,000) and his/her driver's license shall be suspended for a period of one year.
(c) As used in this section, "serious bodily injury" means physical injury that creates a
substantial risk of death or causes serious physical disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment
of the function of any bodily member or organ.

31-17-4. Vehicle entering stop or yield intersection. -- (a) Preferential right-of-way at
an intersection may be indicated by stop signs or yield signs.
(b) Except when directed to proceed by a police officer or traffic-control signal, every
driver of a vehicle approaching a stop intersection indicated by a stop sign shall stop at a clearly
marked stop line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection,
or, if none, then at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of
approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering the intersection. After having
stopped, the driver shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian intending to cross the lane of
traffic in a crosswalk or any vehicle which has entered the intersection from another highway or
which is approaching so closely on the highway as to constitute an immediate hazard during the
time when the driver is moving across or within the intersection.
(c) The driver of a vehicle approaching a yield sign shall, in obedience to the sign, slow
down to a speed reasonable for the existing conditions and, if required for safety to stop, shall
stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of
the intersection, or, if none, then at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver
has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway. After slowing or stopping, the
driver shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian intending to cross the lane of traffic in a
crosswalk or any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another highway so closely as to
constitute an immediate hazard during the time the driver is moving across or within the
intersection.
(d) Violations of this section are subject to the fines enumerated in section 31-41.1-4.
(e) When bodily injury of any person other than the operator of any motor vehicle is
caused by violation of this section, the person so operating the vehicle shall be fined two hundred
dollars ($200). When serious bodily injury of any person other than the operator of any motor
vehicle is caused by violation of this section, the person so operating the vehicle shall be fined
five hundred dollars ($500) and his/her driver's license shall be suspended for a period of three
(3) months. When the death of any person other than the operator of any motor vehicle is caused by violation of this section, the person so operating the vehicle shall be fined one thousand dollars ($1,000) and his/her driver's license shall be suspended for a period of one year.

(f) As used in this section, "serious bodily injury" means physical injury that creates a substantial risk of death or causes serious physical disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

31-17-7. Right-of-way of fire companies. -- The officers and men and women of the fire department, of any fire engine or hose company, or of any protective department or company duly chartered and organized under the laws of this state for the protection of property from fire in any city or town, with their registered fire apparatus, shall have the right of way while going to a fire or upon any alarm of fire, while responding to an emergency call; when on duty at any fire, in, upon, or through any street, highway, lane, avenue, or alley in the city or town; and when exiting or entering a fire station, garage or other department facility. Every person in or upon or owning any vehicle, or upon the street, highway, lane, avenue, or alley, who shall willfully or maliciously refuse the right of way to, or shall in any way willfully or maliciously obstruct or retard any registered fire apparatus of the fire department, fire company, protective department, or company, or any of the officers or men and women, while going to a fire or upon any alarm of fire, while responding to an emergency call, or while on duty at any fire, in, upon, or through the street, highway, lane, avenue, or alley, or when exiting or entering a fire station, garage or other department facility shall be fined not exceeding twenty dollars ($20.00) two hundred dollars ($200). However, the rights pursuant to this section of the protective department or company shall be subject, at all times, to the rights pursuant to this section of the fire department, fire engine company, and hose company.

31-17-8. Right-of-way at rotary. -- (a) In the absence of any traffic control device or sign, the driver of a vehicle about to enter a rotary, regardless of the direction from which the vehicle is approaching, shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles already in the rotary. The state traffic commission shall determine the location of yield signs at rotaries. Violations of this section are subject to fines enumerated in section 31-41.1-4.

(b) When bodily injury of any person other than the operator of any motor vehicle is caused by violation of this section, the person so operating the vehicle shall be fined two hundred dollars ($200). When serious bodily injury of any person other than the operator of any motor vehicle is caused by violation of this section, the person so operating the vehicle shall be fined five hundred dollars ($500) and his/her driver's license shall be suspended for a period of three (3) months. When the death of any person other than the operator of any motor vehicle is caused
by violation of this section, the person so operating the vehicle shall be fined one thousand dollars ($1,000) and his/her driver's license shall be suspended for a period of one year.

(c) As used in this section, "serious bodily injury" means physical injury that creates a substantial risk of death or causes serious physical disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.
EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PASSING, USING OF LANES, AND
RULES OF THE ROAD

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1 This act would create additional penalties for motor vehicle violations at intersections and
2 rights-of-way that cause serious bodily injury or death.
3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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