

## Traffic Law Revisions (Spring/Summer 2013)

### **New and Current WV Traffic Laws**

Dear Citizens:

Let me say to you, welcome spring time. During this time of year it is a pleasure to travel throughout the city and see the beautiful spring flowers that you have planted at your homes. I wish to inform all of our citizens of some legislative changes to our laws that have occurred, and some of our state's current laws. Click here to see that laws that have changed. William Roper, Chief of Police.

17C-15-49 Operation of vehicle with safety belts; exception; penalty; civil actions; educational program by West Virginia State Police.

(a) Effective September 1, 2013 a person may not operate a passenger vehicle on a public street or highway of this state unless the person, and passengers in the front and rear seats are restrained by a safety belt or child passenger safety device. This section applies to the driver and all passengers in the vehicle.

(c) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be fined twenty five (\$ 25.00).

17C-14-15 Prohibited use of an electronic communication device driving without handheld features; definitions; exceptions; penalties.

(a) A person may not drive or operate a motor vehicle on a public street or highway while:

(1) Texting; or

(2) Using a cell phone or other electronic communication device, unless the use is accomplished by hands-free equipment.

(b) For the purpose of this section:

(1) "Cell phone" means a cellular, analog, wireless or digital telephone

(2) "Driving" or "operating a motor vehicle" means operating a motor vehicle, with the motor running, including while temporarily stationary because of traffic, a traffic control device, or other momentary delays, but does not include operating a motor vehicle after the driver has moved the vehicle to the side of, or off, a highway and halted in a location where the vehicle can safely remain stationary.

(e) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a traffic offense and, upon conviction thereof, shall for a first offense be fined \$ 100; for a second offense be fined \$ 200 and for the third or subsequent offenses be fined \$ 300.

This code section is effective July 1, 2013 and shall be enforced as a primary offense for purpose of citation.

17B-2-1a Surrender of license from other state or jurisdiction prior to receipt of license from this state; examination; fees required.

(b) Every driver shall, within thirty days after taking up residence in this state, apply to the division for a driver's license as prescribed in this article.

17A-3-1a Registration of vehicles of new residents.

(a) Every owner of a motor vehicle, trailer or other vehicle, shall, within thirty days after taking up residence in the state, apply to the division and obtain registration and title for the vehicle.

Citizens, I recommend that you research the above code sections for more clarity, but at any time you have a question, all members of the Ranson Police Department are here to assist you, so don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

William Roper, Chief of Police