

TITLE 15
MOTOR VEHICLES, TRAFFIC AND PARKING¹

CHAPTER

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CHAPTER 1
MISCELLANEOUS²

SECTION

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1Municipal code reference

Excavations and obstructions in streets, etc.: title 16.

2State law references

Under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-307, the following offenses are exclusively state offenses and must be tried in a state court or a court having state jurisdiction: driving while intoxicated or drugged, as prohibited by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-401; failing to stop after a traffic accident, as prohibited by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-101, et seq.; driving while license is suspended or revoked, as prohibited by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-7-116; and drag racing, as prohibited by Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-10-501.

15-101. Motor vehicle requirements. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any motor vehicle within the corporate limits unless such vehicle is equipped with properly operating muffler, lights, brakes, horn, and such other equipment as is prescribed and required by Tennessee Code Annotated, title 55, chapter 9. (1995 Code)

15-102. Driving on streets closed for repairs. etc. Except for necessary access to property abutting thereon, no motor vehicle shall be driven upon any street that is barricaded or closed for repairs or other lawful purpose. (1995 Code)

15-103. Reckless driving. Irrespective of the posted speed limit, no person, including operators of emergency vehicles, shall drive any vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property. (1995 Code)

15-104. One-way streets. On any street for one-way traffic with posted signs indicating the authorized direction of travel at all intersections offering access thereto, no person shall operate any vehicle except in the indicated direction. (1995 Code)

15-105. Unlaned streets.

- 1) Upon all unlaned streets of sufficient width, a vehicle shall be driven upon the right half of the street except:
 - a) When lawfully overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.
 - b) When the right half of a roadway is closed to traffic while under construction or repair.
 - c) Upon a roadway designated and signposted by the city for one-way traffic.
- 2) All vehicles proceeding at less than the normal speed of traffic at the time and place and under the conditions then existing shall be driven as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or when preparing for a left turn. (1995 Code)

15-106. Laned streets. On streets marked with traffic lanes, it shall be unlawful for the operator of any vehicle to fail or refuse to keep his vehicle within the boundaries of the proper lane for his direction of travel except when lawfully passing another vehicle or preparatory to making a lawful turning movement.

On two (2) lane and three (3) lane streets, the proper lane for travel shall be the right hand lane unless otherwise clearly marked. On streets with four (4) or more lanes, either of the right hand lanes shall be available for use except that traffic moving at less than the normal rate of speed shall use the extreme right hand lane. On one-way streets either lane may be lawfully used in the absence of markings to the contrary. (1995 Code)

15-107. Yellow lines. On streets with a yellow line placed to the right of any lane line or center line, such yellow line shall designate a no-passing zone, and no operator shall drive his vehicle or any part thereof across or to the left of such yellow line except when necessary to make a lawful left turn from such street. (1995 Code)

15-108. Miscellaneous traffic-control signs, etc.¹ It shall be unlawful for any pedestrian or the operator of any vehicle to violate or fail to comply with any traffic control sign, signal, marking, or device placed or erected by the state or the city/town unless otherwise directed by a police officer. No person shall willfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order of any police officer invested by law with the authority to direct, control or regulate traffic. (1995 Code, modified)

15-109. General requirements for traffic-control signs, etc. Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-5-108, all traffic control signs, signals, markings, and devices shall conform to the latest revision of the Tennessee Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways² and shall be uniform as to type and location throughout the city/town. (1995 Code, modified)

15-110. Unauthorized traffic-control signs, etc. No person shall place, maintain, or display upon or in view of any street, any unauthorized sign, signal, marking, or device which purports to be or is an imitation of or resembles an official traffic-control sign, signal, marking, or device or railroad sign or signal, or which attempts to control the movement of traffic or parking of vehicles, or which hides from view or interferes with the effectiveness of any official traffic-control sign, signal, marking, or device or any railroad sign or signal. (1995 Code)

15-111. Presumption with respect to traffic-control signs, etc. When a traffic-control sign, signal, marking, or device has been placed, the presumption shall be that it is official and that it has been lawfully placed by the proper authority. (1995 Code)

15-112. School safety patrols. All motorists and pedestrians shall obey the directions or signals of school safety patrols when such patrols are assigned under the authority of the chief of police and are acting in accordance with instructions; provided, that such persons giving any order, signal, or direction shall at the time be wearing some insignia and/or using authorized flags for giving signals. (1995 Code)

1Municipal code references

Stop signs, yield signs, flashing signals, pedestrian control signs, traffic control signals generally: §§ 15-505 through 15-509.

2For the latest revision of the Tennessee Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, see the Official Compilation of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Tennessee, § 1680-3-1, et seq.

15-113. Driving through funerals or other processions. Except when otherwise directed by a police officer, no driver of a vehicle shall drive between the vehicles comprising a funeral or other authorized procession while they are in motion and when such vehicles are conspicuously designated. (1995 Code)

15-114. Clinging to vehicles in motion. It shall be unlawful for any person traveling upon any bicycle, motorcycle, coaster, sled, roller skates, or any other vehicle to cling to, or attach himself or his vehicle to any other moving vehicle upon any street, alley, or other public way or place. (1995 Code)

15-115. Riding on outside of vehicles. It shall be unlawful for any person to ride, or for the owner or operator of any motor vehicle being operated on a street, alley, or other public way or place, to permit any person to ride on any portion of such vehicle not designed or intended for the use of passengers. This section shall not apply to persons engaged in the necessary discharge of lawful duties nor to persons riding in the load-carrying space of trucks. (1995 Code)

15-116. Backing vehicles. The driver of a vehicle shall not back the same unless such movement can be made with reasonable safety and without interfering with other traffic. (1995 Code)

15-117. Projections from the rear of vehicles. Whenever the load or any projecting portion of any vehicle shall extend beyond the rear of the bed or body thereof, the operator shall display at the end of such load or projection, in such position as to be clearly visible from the rear of such vehicle, a red flag being not less than twelve inches (12") square. Between one-half (1/2) hour after sunset and one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise, there shall be displayed in place of the flag a red light plainly visible under normal atmospheric conditions at least two hundred feet (200") from the rear of such vehicle. (1995 Code)

15-118. Causing unnecessary noise. It shall be unlawful for any person to cause unnecessary noise by unnecessarily sounding the horn, "racing" the motor, or causing the "screeching" or "squealing" of the tires on any motor vehicle. (1995 Code)

15-119. Vehicles and operators to be licensed. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in violation of the "Tennessee Motor Vehicle Title and Registration Law" or the "Uniform Classified and Commercial Driver License Act of 1988." (1995 Code, modified)

15-120. Passing. Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of a vehicle passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left thereof at a safe distance and shall not again drive to the right side of the street until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle. The driver of the overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle on audible signal and shall not increase the speed of his vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

When the street is wide enough, the driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass upon the right of another vehicle which is making or about to make a left turn.

The driver of a vehicle may overtake and pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction either upon the left or upon the right on a street of sufficient width for four (4) or more lanes of moving traffic when such movement can be made in safety.

No person shall drive off the pavement or upon the shoulder of the street in overtaking or passing on the right.

When any vehicle has stopped at a marked crosswalk or at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the street, no operator of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall overtake and pass such stopped vehicle.

No vehicle operator shall attempt to pass another vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless he can see that the way ahead is sufficiently clear and unobstructed to enable him to make the movement in safety. (1995 Code)

15-121. Damaging pavements. No person shall operate or cause to be operated upon any street of the city any vehicle, motor propelled or otherwise, which by reason of its weight or the character of its wheels, tires, or track is likely to damage the surface or foundation of the street. (1995 Code)

15-122. Motorcycles, motor driven cycles, motorized bicycles, bicycles, etc.

- 1) Definitions. For the purpose of the application of this section, the following words shall have the definitions indicated:
 - a) “Motorcycle.” Every motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three (3) wheels in contact with the ground, including a vehicle that is fully enclosed, has three (3) wheels in contact with the ground, weighs less than one thousand five hundred pounds (1,500 lbs.), and has the capacity to maintain posted highway speed limits, but excluding a tractor or motorized bicycle.
 - b) “Motor-driven cycle.” Every motorcycle, including every motor scooter, with a motor which produces not to exceed five (5) brake horsepower, or with a motor with a cylinder capacity not exceeding one hundred and twenty-five (125) cubic centimeters;
 - c) “Motorized bicycle.” A vehicle with two (2) or three (3) wheels, an automatic transmission, and a motor with a cylinder capacity not exceeding fifty (50) cubic centimeters which

produces no more than two (2) brake horsepower and is capable of propelling the vehicle at a maximum design speed of no more than thirty (30) miles per hour on level ground.

- 2) Every person riding or operating a bicycle, motor cycle, motor driven cycle or motorized bicycle shall be subject to the provisions of all traffic ordinances, rules, and regulations of the city/town applicable to the driver or operator of other vehicles except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application to bicycles, motorcycles, motor driven cycles, or motorized bicycles.
- 3) No person operating or riding a bicycle, motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or motorized bicycle shall ride other than upon or astride the permanent and regular seat attached thereto, nor shall the operator carry any other person upon such vehicle other than upon a firmly attached and regular seat thereon.
- 4) No bicycle, motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or motorized bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.
- 5) No person operating a bicycle, motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or motorized bicycle shall carry any package, bundle, or article which prevents the rider from keeping both hands upon the handlebars.
- 6) No person under the age of sixteen (16) years shall operate any motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or motorized bicycle while any other person is a passenger upon said motor vehicle.
- 7)
 - a) Each driver of a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle, or motorized bicycle and any passenger thereon shall be required to wear on his head either a crash helmet meeting federal standards contained in 49 CFR 571.218, or, if such driver or passenger is twenty-one (21) years of age or older, a helmet meeting the following requirements:
 - i. Except as provided in subdivisions (a)(ii)-(iv), the helmet shall meet federal motor vehicle safety standards specified in 49 CFR 571.218;
 - ii. Notwithstanding any provision in 49 CFR 571.218 relative to helmet penetration standards, ventilation airways may penetrate through the entire shell of the helmet; provided, that no ventilation airway shall exceed one and one-half inches (1-1/2") in diameter;
 - iii. Notwithstanding any provision in 49 CFR 571.218, the protective surface shall not be required to be a continuous contour; and
 - iv. Notwithstanding any provision in 49 CFR 571.218 to the contrary, a label on the helmet shall be affixed signifying that such helmet complies with the requirements of the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CSPM), or the Snell Foundation.
 - b) This section does not apply to persons riding:

- i. Within an enclosed cab;
 - ii. Motorcycles that are fully enclosed, have three (3) wheels in contact with the ground, weigh less than one thousand five hundred pounds (1,500 lbs.) and have the capacity to maintain posted highway speed limits;
 - iii. Golf carts; or
 - iv. In a parade, at a speed not to exceed thirty (30) miles per hour, if the person is eighteen (18) years or older.
- 8) Every motorcycle, motor-driven cycle, or motorized bicycle operated upon any public way within the corporate limits shall be equipped with a windshield or, in the alternative, the operator and any passenger on any such motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or motorized bicycle shall be required to wear safety goggles, faceshield or glasses containing impact resistant lens for the purpose of preventing any flying object from striking the operator or any passenger in the eyes.
- 9) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or ride on any vehicle in violation of this section, and it shall also be unlawful for any parent or guardian knowingly to permit any minor to operate a motorcycle, motor-driven cycle or motorized bicycle in violation of this section. (1995 Code, modified)

15-123. Anti-cruising. It shall be illegal and a trespass for any person to cruise or drive aimlessly through shopping centers or public streets within the corporate limits of the City of Dickson provided said shopping center has posted a sign which prohibits same. Cruising or driving aimlessly within a shopping center or on the public streets is hereby defined as driving back and forth through a shopping center or upon a public street. A person who drives past the same point within a shopping center or upon said street three (3) times or more within any thirty (30) minute period is presumed to be cruising and in violation of this section. (1995 Code)

15-124. Operation of tractor-trailers along certain streets prohibited.¹ It shall be unlawful for any person, persons, firm, or corporation to operate a tractor-trailer motor vehicle along the portion of any street where signs have been posted prohibiting the same. (1995 Code)

15-125. Adoption of state traffic statutes. By the authority granted under Tennessee Code Annotated, § 16-18-302, the City of Dickson adopts by reference, as if fully set forth in this section, the “Rules of the Road,” as codified in Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 55-8-101 through 55-8-131 and §§ 55-8-133 through 55-8-180. Additionally, the City of Dickson adopts Tennessee Code Annotated, §§ 55-4-101 through 55-4-135, §§ 55-8-181 through 55-8-193, §§ 55-8-199, §§ 55-9-601 through 55-9-606, §§ 55-12-139, §§ 55-21-108 and 55-50-351 by reference as if fully set forth in this section and that violation of any of these statutes can be considered a violation of the Dickson Municipal Code and adjudicated as such. (Ord. #1414, Oct 2017)

¹See Ord. #906 (June 1995) of record in the recorder's office for an ordinance prohibiting the operation of tractor-trailers along East Christi Drive and West Christi Drive and to provide penalties for the violation thereof.

CHAPTER 2 EMERGENCY VEHICLES

SECTION

- 15-201. Authorized emergency vehicles defined.
- 15-202. Operation of authorized emergency vehicles.
- 15-203. Following emergency vehicles.
- 15-204. Running over fire hoses, etc.

15-201. Authorized emergency vehicles defined. Authorized emergency vehicles shall be fire department vehicles, police vehicles, and such ambulances and other emergency vehicles as are designated by the chief of police. (1995 Code)

15-202. Operation of authorized emergency vehicles.¹

- 1) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call, or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, subject to the conditions herein stated.
- 2) The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this title; proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down to ascertain that the intersection is clear; exceed the maximum speed limit and disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions so long as he does not endanger life or property.
- 3) The exemptions herein granted for an authorized emergency vehicle shall apply only when the driver of any such vehicle while in motion sounds an audible signal by bell, siren, or exhaust whistle and when the vehicle is equipped with at least one (1) lighted lamp displaying a red light, or a blue light if a police vehicle, visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred feet (500') to the front of such vehicle, except that an authorized emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle need not be equipped with or display a red light visible from in front of the vehicle.
- 4) The foregoing provisions shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of others. (1995 Code)
- 5) **15-203. Following emergency vehicles.** No driver of any vehicle shall follow any authorized emergency vehicle apparently travelling in response to an emergency call closer than five hundred feet (500') or drive or park such vehicle within the block where fire apparatus has stopped in answer to a fire alarm. (1995 Code)

- 6) **15-204. Running over fire hoses, etc.** It shall be unlawful for any person to drive over any hose lines or other equipment of the fire department except in obedience to the direction of a fireman or police officer. (1995 Code)

1Municipal code reference Operation of other vehicle upon the approach of emergency vehicles: § 15-501.

CHAPTER 3 SPEED LIMITS

SECTION

15-301. In general.

15-302. At intersections.

15-303. In school zones.

15-304. In congested areas.

15-301. In general. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle upon any highway or street at a rate of speed in excess of thirty (30) miles per hour except where official signs have been posted indicating other speed limits, in which cases the posted speed limit shall apply. (1995 Code)

15-302. At intersections. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive a motor vehicle through any intersection at a rate of speed in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour unless such person is driving on a street regulated by traffic-control signals or signs which require traffic to stop or yield on the intersecting streets. (1995 Code)

15-303. In school zones. Generally, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-152, special speed limits in school zones shall be enacted based on an engineering investigation; shall not be less than fifteen (15) miles per hour; and shall be in effect only when proper signs are posted with a warning flasher or flashers in operation. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any such special speed limit enacted and in effect in accordance with this paragraph. (1995 Code, modified)

15-304. In congested areas. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a motor vehicle through any congested area at a rate of speed in excess of any posted speed limit when such speed limit has been posted by authority of the city. (1995 Code)

CHAPTER 4 TURNING MOVEMENTS

SECTION

15-401. Generally.

15-402. Right turns.

15-403. Left turns on two-way roadways.

15-404. Left turns on other than two-way roadways.

15-405. U-turns.

15-401. Generally. No person operating a motor vehicle shall make any turning movement which might affect any pedestrian or the operation of any other vehicle without first ascertaining that such movement can be made in safety and signaling his intention in accordance with the requirements of the state law.¹ (1995 Code, § 15-401)

15-402. Right turns. Both the approach for a right turn and a right turn shall be made as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway. (1995 Code, § 15-402)

15-403. Left turns on two-way roadways. At any intersection where traffic is permitted to move in both directions on each roadway entering the intersection, an approach for a left turn shall be made in that portion of the right half of the roadway nearest the center line thereof and by passing to the right of the intersection of the center line of the two roadways. (1995 Code, § 15-403)

15-404. Left turns on other than two-way roadways. At any intersection where traffic is restricted to one (1) direction on one (1) or more of the roadways, the driver of a vehicle intending to turn left at any such intersection shall approach the intersection in the extreme left hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the direction of travel of such vehicle, and after entering the intersection, the left turn shall be made so as to leave the intersection, as nearly as practicable, in the left hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in such direction upon the roadway being entered. (1995 Code, § 15-404)

15-405. U-turns. U-turns are prohibited generally. (Ord. #1472, Jan. 2020)

¹State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

CHAPTER 5 STOPPING AND YIELDING

SECTION

- 15-501. Upon approach of authorized emergency vehicles.
- 15-502. When emerging from alleys, etc.
- 15-503. To prevent obstructing an intersection.
- 15-504. At railroad crossings.
- 15-505. At “stop” signs.
- 15-506. At “yield” signs.
- 15-507. At traffic-control signals generally.
- 15-508. At flashing traffic-control signals.
- 15-509. Stops to be signaled.

15-501. Upon approach of authorized emergency vehicles.¹ Upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle making use of audible and/or visual signals meeting the requirements of the laws of this state, or of a police vehicle properly and lawfully making use of an audible signal only, the driver of every other vehicle shall immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the right hand edge or curb of the roadway clear of any intersection and shall stop and remain in such position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer. (1995 Code)

15-502. When emerging from alleys, etc. The drivers of all vehicles emerging from alleys, parking lots, driveways, or buildings shall stop such vehicles immediately prior to driving onto any sidewalk or street. They shall not proceed to drive onto the sidewalk or street until they can safely do so without colliding or interfering with approaching pedestrians or vehicles. (1995 Code)

15-503. To prevent obstructing an intersection. No driver shall enter any intersection or marked crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of such intersection or crosswalk to accommodate the vehicle he is operating without obstructing the passage of traffic in or on the intersecting street or crosswalk. This provision shall be effective notwithstanding any traffic-control signal indication to proceed. (1995 Code)

15-504. At railroad crossings. Any driver of a vehicle approaching a railroad grade crossing shall stop within not less than fifteen feet (15') from the nearest rail of such railroad and shall not proceed further while any of the following conditions exist:

- 1) A clearly visible electrical or mechanical signal device gives warning of the approach of a railroad train.
- 2) A crossing gate is lowered or a human flagman signals the approach of a railroad train.

- 3) A railroad train is approaching within approximately one thousand five hundred feet (1,500') of the highway crossing and is emitting an audible signal indicating its approach.
- 4) An approaching railroad train is plainly visible and is in hazardous proximity to the crossing. (1995 Code)

1Municipal code reference

Special privileges of emergency vehicles: title 15, chapter 2.

15-505. At “stop” signs. The driver of a vehicle facing a “stop” sign shall bring his vehicle to a complete stop immediately before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if there is no crosswalk, then immediately before entering the intersection, and shall remain standing until he can proceed through the intersection in safety. (1995 Code)

15-506. At “yield” signs. The drivers of all vehicles shall yield the right-of-way to approaching vehicles before proceeding at all places where “yield” signs have been posted. (1995 Code)

15-507. At traffic-control signals generally. Traffic-control signals exhibiting the words “Go,” “Caution,” or “Stop,” or exhibiting different colored lights successively one (1) at a time, or with arrows, shall show the following colors only and shall apply to drivers of vehicles and pedestrians as follows:

- 1) Green alone, or “Go”:
 - a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal may proceed straight through or turn right or left unless a sign at such place prohibits such turn. But vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left, shall yield the right-of-way to other vehicles and to pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk at the time such signal is exhibited.
 - b) Pedestrians facing the signal may proceed across the roadway.
- 2) Steady yellow alone, or “Caution”:
 - a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal is thereby warned that the red or “Stop” signal will be exhibited immediately thereafter and such vehicular traffic shall not enter or be crossing the intersection when the red or “Stop” signal is exhibited.
 - b) Pedestrians facing such signal shall not enter the roadway.
- 3) Steady red alone, or “Stop”:
 - a) Vehicular traffic facing the signal shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, if none, then before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until green or “Go” is shown alone. Provided, however, that a right turn on a red

signal shall be permitted at all intersections within the city, provided that the prospective turning car comes to a full and complete stop before turning and that the turning car yields the right-of-way to pedestrians and cross traffic traveling in accordance with their traffic signal. However, said turn will not endanger other traffic lawfully using said intersection. A right turn on red shall be permitted at all intersections except those clearly marked by a “No Turns On Red” sign, which may be erected by the city at intersections which the city decides require no right turns on red in the interest of traffic safety.

- b) Pedestrians facing such signal shall not enter the roadway.
- 4) Steady red with green arrow:
 - a) Vehicular traffic facing such signal may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow but shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully within a crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.
 - b) Pedestrians facing such signal shall not enter the roadway.
- 5) In the event an official traffic-control signal is erected and maintained at a place other than an intersection, the provisions of this section shall be applicable except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application. Any stop required shall be made at a sign or marking on the pavement indicating where the stop shall be made, but in the absence of any such sign or marking the stop shall be made a vehicle length short of the signal. (1995 Code)

15-508. At flashing traffic-control signals.

- 1) Whenever an illuminated flashing red or yellow signal is used in a traffic sign or signal placed or erected in the city it shall require obedience by vehicular traffic as follows:
 - a) Flashing red (stop signal). When a red lens is illuminated with intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles shall stop before entering the nearest crosswalk at an intersection or at a limit line when marked, or if none, then before entering the intersection, and the right to proceed shall be subject to the rules applicable after making a stop at a stop sign.
 - b) Flashing yellow (caution signal). When a yellow lens is illuminated with intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles may proceed through the intersection or past such signal only with caution.
- 2) This section shall not apply at railroad grade crossings. Conduct of drivers of vehicles approaching railroad grade crossings shall be governed by the rules set forth in § 15-504 of this code. (1995 Code)

15-509. Stops to be signaled. No person operating a motor vehicle shall stop such vehicle, whether in obedience to a traffic sign or signal or otherwise, without first signaling his intention in accordance with the requirements of the state law,¹ except in an emergency. (1995 Code)

1 State law reference
Tennessee Code Annotated, § 55-8-143.

CHAPTER 6 PARKING

SECTION

- 15-601. Definitions.
- 15-602. "Illegal parking" generally.
- 15-603. Angle parking.
- 15-604. Occupancy of more than one space.
- 15-605. Loading/Unloading Zones and Service/Delivery Vehicles
- 15-606. Where parking is prohibited.
- 15-607. Presumption with respect to illegal parking.
- 15-608. Presumption with respect to legal parking.

15-601. Definitions. The following definitions shall apply throughout this chapter unless specified otherwise.

- 1) "Center line" shall be the point in the designated street, alley or public way intended to divide the lanes for traffic in opposing directions and can include different widths or number of lanes on either side and may or may not be designated by stripes or other markings on the surface.
- 2) "Lane" shall include the portion of a street, alley or other public way established for vehicle traffic in a specified direction under the regulations promulgated by the municipality, county or state that may or may not be designated by surface markings, stripes or other signage.
- 3) "One-way street" shall include any street, alley or public way that has been restricted by the municipality, county or state and designated by signage or other markings for vehicle traffic only in one direction.
- 4) "Parking" shall include the temporary placement or storage of any vehicle as defined in this chapter in a designated parking space upon a public street, alley, parking lot or right of way owned, leased or controlled by the municipality, county or state.
- 5) "Parking space" shall include any location on a public street, alley, parking lot or right of way owned, leased or controlled by the municipality that has been designated specifically for parking by the municipality through markings on the surface and/or signage.
- 6) "Street" shall include any municipal-, county-, state- or federally-maintained public way intended for the use of vehicle traffic.
- 7) "Vehicle" shall include, but not be limited to, any automobile, truck, motorcycle, trailer, boat, recreational vehicle, motor home, cart, aircraft or other motorized or non-motorized device used for transporting people or goods on land or water or by air.

- 8) Any term, phrase or word used in this chapter and not specifically defined herein shall be assumed to be defined as established by prevailing ordinance, statute or law. (Ord. #1531, June 2023)

15-602. "Illegal parking" generally.

- 1) Every vehicle parked upon a street within the City of Dickson shall be so parked that it does not create a hazard to traffic.
- 2) Every vehicle parked upon a street within the City of Dickson shall be so parked that it does not encroach into a lane of traffic.
 - a) Vehicles shall only be parked on the right side of the street and/or lane(s) of traffic as defined by the designated direction of travel for the street or lane.
 - b) Any vehicle parked in such a manner to require vehicles passing in the same direction to cross any line that marks a lane of traffic violates the prohibition of subsection (2) above.
 - c) It is presumed that any vehicle parked such that its left wheels are within the driving lane encroaches into a lane for traffic.
 - i. The "lane for traffic" is the area bounded on the left and right as designating the path for vehicles traveling in that direction.
 - ii. On a two-way street, the "lane for traffic" is designated by the center line of the street and the outside, right-hand boundary of the street.
- 3) Where traffic lanes are not marked, vehicles shall be so parked that vehicles passing them in the same direction are not required to cross the center line of the street into the opposite lane to avoid the parked vehicles.
- 4) The actions set forth in subsections (a)-(d) above are not exclusive, as all actions that create a hazard for traffic are prohibited.
- 5) The actions prohibited by § 6-15-606 of this chapter likewise constitute actions that create a hazard for traffic.
- 6) Notwithstanding anything else in this code to the contrary, no person shall park or leave a vehicle parked on any public street or alley for more than forty-eight (48) consecutive hours without the prior approval of the chief of police.
- 7) No person shall stand or park a vehicle upon a street or public way of the city or in a city-owned or city-controlled parking lot for the principal purpose of displaying it for sale or displaying merchandise for sale on or near such vehicle or making sales of merchandise from such vehicle.

- 8) Furthermore, no person shall wash, grease, or work on any vehicle, except to make repairs necessitated by an emergency, while such vehicle is parked on a public street. (Ord. #1531, June 2023)

15-603. Angle parking. On those streets which have been signed or marked by the City of Dickson for angle parking, no person shall park or stand a vehicle other than at the angle indicated by such signs or markings. No person shall angle park any vehicle which has a trailer attached thereto or which has a length in excess of twenty-four (24) feet. (1995 Code)

15-604. Occupancy of more than one space. No person shall park a vehicle in any designated parking space so that any part of such vehicle occupies more than one (1) such space or protrudes beyond the official markings on the street or curb designating such space unless the vehicle is too large to be parked within a single designated space. (1995 Code)

15-605. Loading/Unloading Zones and Service/Delivery Vehicles.

- 1) Loading/Unloading Zones. No person shall park a vehicle for any purpose or period of time other than for the expeditious loading or unloading of passengers or merchandise in any place marked by the City of Dickson as a loading and unloading zone.
- 2) Service/Delivery Vehicles. Vehicles used to provide a service such as yard maintenance and delivery vehicles should make every effort possible to not interfere with the flow of traffic or create high-risk hazards. Temporary parking on a city street for a service or delivery vehicle will be allowed with proper safety precautions, which can include signage, flaggers, safety cones, flares or other safety measures to warn drivers. (Ord. #1531, June 2023)

15-606. Where parking is prohibited. No person shall park a vehicle in violation of any sign placed or erected by the State of Tennessee or City of Dickson, nor:

- 1) On a sidewalk.
- 2) In a manner that interferes with access to a public or private driveway.
- 3) In such a manner that interferes with the routine collection of household refuse, leaves or brush by the municipality or the delivery of mail.
- 4) Within an intersection or within twenty-five (25) feet of the center point thereof.
- 5) Within fifteen (15) feet of a fire hydrant unless permitted by designation of a parking space by the municipality through signage or surface markings.
- 6) Within a pedestrian or school children's crosswalk.
- 7) Within fifty (50) feet of a railroad crossing.

- 8) Within twenty (20) feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station, and on the side of the street opposite the entrance to any fire station within seventy-five (75) feet of the entrance.
- 9) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when other traffic would be obstructed.
- 10) On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street.
- 11) Upon any bridge.
- 12) Alongside any curb painted yellow or red by the City of Dickson or designated for no parking by the municipality through signage.
- 13) In any public parking space designated by signage or surface markings as being limited to handicapped drivers unless in a vehicle displaying the authorized license plate or placard issued by the State of Tennessee Department of Safety.
- 14) More than eighteen (18) inches from the nearest tire(s) of the vehicle to the nearest curb, sidewalk or other tire stop structure or marking installed, designated or maintained by the municipality, whether angle, parallel or pull-in parking.
- 15) By parking a vehicle different from the type or size designated for a particular parking space by signage or surface marking. (Ord. #1531, June 2023)

15-607. Presumption with respect to illegal parking. When any unoccupied vehicle is found parked in violation of any provision of this chapter, there shall be a prima facie presumption that the registered owner of the vehicle is responsible for such illegal parking. (1995 Code)

15-608. Presumption with respect to legal parking. Notwithstanding anything else in this code to the contrary, it shall be presumed that a vehicle is legally parked when located within a parking space designated by the municipality for parking by signage or surface markings. (Ord. #1531, June 2023)

CHAPTER 7 ENFORCEMENT

SECTION

- 15-701. Issuance of traffic citations.
- 15-702. Failure to obey citation.
- 15-703. Illegal parking.
- 15-704. Impoundment of vehicles.
- 15-705. Violations and penalty.

15-701. Issuance of traffic citations.¹ When a police officer halts a traffic violator other than for the purpose of giving a warning, and does not take such person into custody under arrest, he shall take the name, address, and operator's license number of said person, the license number of the motor vehicle involved, and such other pertinent information as may be necessary, and shall issue to him a written traffic citation containing a notice to answer to the charge against him in the city court at a specified time. The officer, upon receiving the written promise of the alleged violator to answer as specified in the citation, shall release such person from custody. It shall be unlawful for any alleged violator to give false or misleading information as to his name or address. (1995 Code)

15-702. Failure to obey citation. It shall be unlawful for any person to violate his written promise to appear in court after giving said promise to an officer upon the issuance of a traffic citation, regardless of the disposition of the charge for which the citation was originally issued. (1995 Code)

15-703. Illegal parking. Whenever any motor vehicle without a driver is found parked or stopped in violation of any of the restrictions imposed by this code, the officer finding such vehicle shall take its license number and may take any other information displayed on the vehicle which may identify its user, and shall conspicuously affix to such vehicle a citation for the driver and/or owner to answer for the violation within ten (10) days during the hours and at a place specified in the citation. (1995 Code)

15-704. Impoundment of vehicles. Members of the police are hereby authorized, when reasonably necessary to prevent obstruction of traffic, to remove from the streets and impound any vehicle whose operator is arrested, or any vehicle which is illegally parked, abandoned, or otherwise parked so as to constitute an obstruction or hazard to normal traffic. Any vehicle left parked on any street or alley for more than seventy-two (72) consecutive hours without permission from the chief of police shall be presumed to have been abandoned if the owner cannot be located after a reasonable investigation. Such an impounded vehicle shall be stored until the owner claims it, gives satisfactory evidence of ownership, and pays all applicable fines and costs. The fee for impounding a vehicle shall be as set forth in the State of Tennessee Department of Safety Wrecker Service Standard Manual. (1995 Code, modified)

1State law reference

Tennessee Code Annotated, § 7-63-101, et seq.

15-705. Violations and penalty. Any violation of this title shall be a civil offense punishable as follows: Traffic citations. Traffic citations shall be punishable by a civil penalty up to fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each separate offense. (1995 Code, modified)