

DID YOU KNOW???

TRAFFIC LAWS MOST DRIVERS AREN'T AWARE OF

As I read through the legal wording of NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL), I often come upon interesting laws that I wasn't aware of prior to writing these weekly articles and I suppose most drivers are also unaware of many of these same laws. So, more for interest than for education, in no particular order, I will review some of the obscure laws. See how many of them you were aware of or realized that they were actual vehicle and traffic laws where a violation carried a fine and/or jail time?

Section 1215. Driving on mountain highways. "The driver of a motor vehicle traveling through defiles or canyons or on mountain highways shall hold such motor vehicle under control and as near the right hand edge of the highway as reasonably possible and, upon approaching any curve where the view is obstructed within a distance of 200 feet along the highway shall give audible warning with the horn of such vehicle."

Section 1216. Coasting prohibited. "The driver of any motor vehicle when traveling upon a downgrade shall not coast with the gears of such vehicle in neutral, nor with the clutch disengaged."

Section 1218. Crossing fire hose. "No vehicle shall be driven over any unprotected hose of a fire department when laid down on any street or private driveway, to be used at any fire or alarm of fire, without the consent of the fire department official in command."

Section 1211 (c). "The driver of a motor vehicle engaged in retail sales of frozen desserts (i.e. ice cream truck) directly to pedestrians shall not back the same to make or attempt to make a sale." And, in section 1225-b, a driver of a vehicle engaged in retail sale of desserts cannot do so "unless such motor vehicle is lawfully parked or stopped", and "unless such sales occurs from the side of the vehicle away from moving traffic and as near as possible to the curb or shoulder of the roadway", and cannot sell "to any person standing in the roadway."

Here's one I'll bet you didn't know – you could be fined \$150 and jailed for 15 days for *not walking upon the right half of the crosswalk!* That's right! Section 1155, Pedestrians to use right half of crosswalks states: "Pedestrians shall move, whenever practicable, upon the right half of crosswalks". Sound weird? Well think of New York City, where you might have 50-100 pedestrians crossing a street at the same time. Crosswalks could get very congested.

Section 1228. Riding in house coach trailers. "No person shall drive a vehicle on a public highway while drawing a house coach trailer occupied by any person and no person shall occupy a house coach trailer while it is being drawn upon a public highway."

The preceding is just a sample of some vehicle and traffic laws that may be somewhat antiquated or unknown, but nevertheless are laws that you could be issued a ticker for violating. A future article will highlight some more of these laws.

For more articles on traffic law and safety, go to the traffic safety board's web site at: www.franklincony.org and click on "Traffic Safety Board" under departments then look for Did You Know articles under "services". You may also email me with any comments, questions or suggestions at: dwerner151@verizon.net