

**MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 300 of 1949**

**TRAFFIC SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND MARKINGS**

**257.608 Uniform system of traffic control devices; manual.**

Sec. 608. The state transportation department and department of state police shall adopt a manual and specifications for a uniform system of traffic control devices consistent with the provisions of this chapter for use upon highways within this state. The manual shall correlate with and so far as possible conform to the federal manual then current as approved by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and may be revised whenever necessary to carry out the provisions of this act. It is the policy of this state to achieve, insofar as is practicable, uniformity in the design, shape, and color scheme of traffic signs, signals, and guide posts erected and maintained upon the streets and highways within this state with other states. Definitions and meanings found in the manual adopted under this section are supplemental to the definitions in chapter I. However, if a definition or meaning found in the manual adopted under this section conflicts with a definition in chapter I, the definition in chapter I prevails.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 2016, Act 448, Eff. Jan. 5, 2018.

**257.609 Traffic control devices; placement and maintenance; restrictions; county road commission, permission, costs.**

Sec. 609. (1) The state transportation department shall place or require to be placed, and maintain or require to be maintained, upon all state highways traffic control devices as it considers necessary to indicate and carry out the provisions of this chapter or to regulate, warn, or guide traffic. A traffic control device placed and maintained under this subsection shall conform to the most current Michigan manual on uniform traffic control devices.

(2) A local authority shall not place or maintain a traffic control device upon a trunk line highway under the jurisdiction of the state transportation department, except by the latter's permission, or upon a county road without the permission of the county road commission having jurisdiction over that road. With the approval of the state transportation department, the board of county road commissioners of a county, at its option, may install and maintain traffic control devices conforming to the Michigan manual on uniform traffic control devices if the cost would be less than that estimated by the state transportation department and bill the state transportation department for its share of the cost of installation.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 1953, Act 76, Eff. Oct. 2, 1953;—Am. 1968, Act 98, Imd. Eff. June 7, 1968;—Am. 2016, Act 448, Eff. Jan. 5, 2018.

**257.610 Traffic control devices; placement and maintenance by local authorities and county road commissions; compliance with manual; failure to comply with statutory provisions; sale, purchase, or manufacture of devices.**

Sec. 610. (1) Local authorities and county road commissions in their respective jurisdictions shall place and maintain the traffic control devices upon highways under their jurisdiction that they consider necessary to indicate and to carry out the provisions of this chapter or local traffic ordinances or to regulate, warn, or guide traffic. All traffic control devices shall conform to the Michigan manual on uniform traffic control devices.

(2) The state transportation department shall withhold from any incorporated village, city, or county that fails to comply with sections 606, 608, 609, 612, and 613, the share of fuel and vehicle tax revenue that would otherwise be due the incorporated village, city, or county under section 10 of 1951 PA 51, MCL 247.660. Notice of failure to comply, and 1 year's time to comply after notice, shall first be given.

(3) A person, firm, or corporation shall not sell or offer for sale to local authorities and local authorities shall not purchase or manufacture any traffic control device that does not conform to the Michigan manual on uniform traffic control devices, except with the permission of the director of the state transportation department.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 1955, Act 245, Eff. Oct. 14, 1955;—Am. 1972, Act 72, Imd. Eff. Mar. 9, 1972;—Am. 2016, Act 448, Eff. Jan. 5, 2018.

**257.611 Traffic control devices; obedience required; exception; avoiding obedience by driving on public or private property; violation as civil infraction.**

Sec. 611. (1) The driver of a vehicle or operator of a streetcar shall not disobey the instructions of a traffic control device placed in accordance with this chapter unless at the time otherwise directed by a police officer.

(2) The driver of a vehicle shall not, for the purpose of avoiding obedience to a traffic control device placed in accordance with this chapter, drive upon or through private property, or upon or through public

property which is not a street or highway.

(3) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 1976, Act 75, Imd. Eff. Apr. 11, 1976;—Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979.

**257.611a Direction of traffic in work zone; conditions; failure to comply; violation as civil infraction.**

Sec. 611a. (1) An owner or employee of an entity performing construction, maintenance, surveying, or utility work within a work zone may direct traffic within that work zone if both of the following apply:

(a) The department of transportation, the local authority, or the county road commission, within its respective jurisdiction, authorizes that owner or employee to direct traffic due to safety or work requirements. The authorization shall be issued in the manner considered appropriate by the department of transportation, the local authority, or the county road commission, and may be general or specific. The authorization may establish the conditions under which the owner or employee may direct traffic, and may allow the owner or employee to direct traffic in disregard of an existing traffic control device.

(b) The owner or employee is properly trained, equipped, and attired in conformance with the manual of uniform traffic control devices authorized under section 608.

(2) The operator of a motor vehicle who fails to comply with the directions of an owner or employee directing traffic under this section, including a direction made in disregard of an existing traffic control device, is responsible for a civil infraction.

**History:** Add. 2008, Act 298, Imd. Eff. Oct. 8, 2008.

**257.612 Traffic control signals; location; red arrow and yellow arrow indications; colors; traffic control signal at place other than intersection; stopping at sign, marking, or signal; violation of subsection (1) or (2) as civil infraction; approaching person using wheelchair or device to aid walking; violation of subsection (4) as misdemeanor; location of sign prohibiting turn on red signal; additional sign; location of temporary traffic control signal.**

Sec. 612. (1) When traffic is controlled by traffic control signals, not fewer than 1 signal shall be located over the traveled portion of the roadway so as to give vehicle operators a clear indication of the right-of-way assignment from their normal positions approaching the intersection. The vehicle signals shall exhibit different colored lights successively, 1 at a time, or with arrows. Red arrow and yellow arrow indications have the same meaning as the corresponding circular indications, except that they apply only to vehicle operators intending to make the movement indicated by the arrow. The following colors shall be used, and the terms and lights shall indicate and apply to vehicle operators as follows:

(a) If the signal exhibits a green indication, vehicular traffic facing the signal may proceed straight through or turn right or left unless a sign at that place prohibits either turn. Vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left, shall yield the right-of-way to other vehicles and to pedestrians and bicyclists lawfully within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk at the time the signal is exhibited.

(b) If the signal exhibits a steady yellow indication, vehicular traffic facing the signal shall stop before entering the nearest crosswalk at the intersection or at a limit line when marked, but if the stop cannot be made in safety, a vehicle may be driven cautiously through the intersection.

(c) If the signal exhibits a steady red indication, the following apply:

(i) Vehicular traffic facing a steady red signal alone shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or at a limit line when marked or, if there is no crosswalk or limit line, before entering the intersection and shall remain standing until a green indication is shown, except as provided in subparagraph (ii).

(ii) Vehicular traffic facing a steady red signal, after stopping before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or at a limit line when marked or, if there is no crosswalk or limit line, before entering the intersection, may make a right turn from a 1-way or 2-way street into a 2-way street or into a 1-way street carrying traffic in the direction of the right turn or may make a left turn from a 1-way or 2-way street into a 1-way roadway carrying traffic in the direction of the left turn, unless prohibited by sign, signal, marking, light, or other traffic control device. The vehicular traffic shall yield the right of way to pedestrians and bicyclists lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

(d) If the signal exhibits a steady green arrow indication, vehicular traffic facing the green arrow signal, shown alone or in combination with another indication, may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by the arrow or other movement permitted by other indications shown at the same time. The vehicular traffic shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and bicyclists lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

(2) If a traffic control signal is erected and maintained at a place other than an intersection, the provisions

of this section apply except for those provisions that by their nature cannot apply. 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 a sign or marking, the stop shall be made at the signal.

(3) A person who violates subsection (1) or (2) is responsible for a civil infraction.

(4) A vehicle operator who approaches a person using a wheelchair or a device to aid the person to walk at a crosswalk or any other pedestrian crossing shall take necessary precautions to avoid accident or injury to the person using the wheelchair or device. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(5) A sign prohibiting a turn on a red signal as provided in subsection (1)(c)(ii) shall be located above or adjacent to the traffic control signal or as close as possible to the point where the turn is made, or at both locations, so that 1 or more of the signs are visible to a vehicle operator intending to turn, at the point where the turn is made. An additional sign may be used at the far side of the intersection in the direct line of vision of the turning vehicle operator.

(6) Subject to federal law, a temporary traffic control signal may be located on, over, or adjacent to the traveled portion of the roadway.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 1955, Act 245, Eff. Oct. 14, 1955;—Am. 1964, Act 222, Eff. Aug. 28, 1964;—Am. 1966, Act 237, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1975, Act 287, Eff. Mar. 31, 1976;—Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979;—Am. 1988, Act 105, Eff. July 31, 1988;—Am. 1990, Act 33, Eff. Apr. 1, 1991;—Am. 2006, Act 339, Imd. Eff. Aug. 15, 2006;—Am. 2014, Act 386, Imd. Eff. Dec. 18, 2014.

### **257.613 Applicability of regular traffic control signals to pedestrians; special pedestrian control signals; violation as civil infraction.**

Sec. 613. (1) If special pedestrian control signals are not utilized, the regular traffic control signals as indicated in section 612 shall apply to pedestrians as follows:

(a) Green indication. Pedestrians facing the signal may proceed across the roadway within a marked or unmarked crosswalk.

(b) Steady yellow indication. Pedestrians facing the signal are advised that there is insufficient time to cross the roadway and a pedestrian then starting to cross shall yield the right of way to all vehicles.

(c) Steady red indication. Pedestrians facing the signal shall not enter the highway unless they can do so safely and without interfering with vehicular traffic.

(d) Red with arrow. Pedestrians facing the signal shall not enter the highway unless they can do so safely without interfering with vehicular traffic.

(2) If special pedestrian control signals are installed, they shall be placed at the far end of each crosswalk and shall indicate a "walk" or "don't walk" interval. These special signals shall apply to pedestrians only to the exclusion of a regular traffic control signal or signals which may be present at the same location, as follows:

(a) Walk interval—Pedestrians facing the signal may proceed across the highway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right of way by the drivers of all vehicles.

(b) Don't walk (steady burning or flashing) interval—A pedestrian shall not start to cross the highway in the direction of the signals, but a pedestrian who has partially completed crossing on the walk interval of the signal shall proceed to a sidewalk or safety island while the don't walk interval of the signal is showing.

(3) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 1955, Act 245, Eff. Oct. 14, 1955;—Am. 1956, Act 71, Eff. Aug. 11, 1956;—Am. 1964, Act 222, Eff. Aug. 28, 1964;—Am. 1966, Act 237, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979.

### **257.613a School crossings; establishment; basis; determination; notice; erection of school crossing signs.**

Sec. 613a. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), the state transportation department, a county road commission, or a local authority shall establish school crossings considered necessary for the safety of schoolchildren on streets and highways under its jurisdiction. The establishment of a school crossing shall be based upon a traffic and engineering study conducted by the authority having jurisdiction, in consultation with the superintendent of the school district.

(2) If considered necessary under subsection (1) or pursuant to a traffic and engineering study conducted under subsection (4), a school crossing shall be established within a safe distance from a school located on a street or highway on which the speed limit is 25 miles or more per hour.

(3) Upon request of the superintendent of the school district, the following individuals shall meet at not less than 5-year intervals to consider whether a traffic and engineering study should be conducted to determine whether a school crossing is required under subsection (2):

(a) The superintendent of the school district in which the school is located or his or her designee.

(b) The head of the local authority having jurisdiction to maintain the road or his or her designee or, if

there is no local authority, an individual designated by the director of the state transportation department.

(c) The chief of police of the local unit of government in which the road is located or his or her designee or, if the local unit of government does not have a police department, the county sheriff or his or her designee.

(4) If the individuals described in subsection (3) determine by unanimous vote that a traffic and engineering study should be conducted, the individuals shall notify the authority having jurisdiction to maintain the road in writing of that determination. If the authority is notified under this subsection that a traffic and engineering study should be conducted, the authority shall conduct the study.

(5) Having established a school crossing, the state transportation department, county road commission, or local authority shall erect school crossing signs, in conformance with the manual of uniform traffic control devices provided for in section 608, on streets or highways under its jurisdiction.

**History:** Add. 1978, Act 227, Imd. Eff. June 14, 1978;—Am. 2004, Act 201, Imd. Eff. July 13, 2004.

**Popular name:** The Jasmine Miles Schoolchildren Safety Act

#### **257.613b School crossing guard; stationing; time period; color and design of outer vest; stopping vehicular traffic with hand held stop sign; authority.**

Sec. 613b. (1) When assigned, a school crossing guard shall be stationed at a school crossing during time periods established jointly by the superintendent of the school district and the head of the law enforcement agency having immediate jurisdiction.

(2) While on duty, a school crossing guard shall wear an outer vest of a color and design which conforms with the standards of the manual of uniform traffic control devices provided for in section 608.

(3) A school crossing guard while on duty at a school crossing shall when necessary stop vehicular traffic. This shall be done by use of a hand held stop sign which conforms to the standards for the sign in the manual of uniform traffic control devices or as approved by the department of state highways and transportation. School crossing guards shall have the authority only at their assigned crossings and only during their assigned duty times.

**History:** Add. 1978, Act 227, Imd. Eff. June 14, 1978.

#### **257.613c School crossing guard; responsibility of local law enforcement agency; instruction required; approval and conduct of courses.**

Sec. 613c. (1) School crossing guards shall be the responsibility of the local law enforcement agency having immediate jurisdiction of the crossing.

(2) A person shall receive a minimum of 4 hours instruction before performing the duties of a school crossing guard. Two hours of additional instruction shall be given annually to a school crossing guard before the beginning of each school year. The courses of instruction shall be approved by the department of education and the department of state police and conducted by the local law enforcement agency having jurisdiction or its designee.

**History:** Add. 1978, Act 227, Imd. Eff. June 14, 1978.

#### **257.613d Failure to stop for school crossing guard holding stop sign in upright position; misdemeanor; presumption.**

Sec. 613d. (1) A driver of a motor vehicle who fails to stop when a school crossing guard is in a school crossing and is holding a stop sign in an upright position visible to approaching vehicular traffic is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) In a proceeding for a violation of this section, proof that the particular vehicle described in the citation, complaint, or warrant was used in the violation, together with proof that the defendant named in the citation complaint or warrant was the registered owner of the vehicle at the time of the violation, constitutes in evidence a presumption that the registered owner of the vehicle was the driver of the vehicle at the time of the violation.

**History:** Add. 1978, Act 227, Imd. Eff. June 14, 1978.

#### **257.614 Flashing red or yellow signals; violation as civil infraction.**

Sec. 614. (1) If flashing red or yellow signals are used, they shall require obedience by vehicular traffic as follows:

(a) Flashing red (stop signal). When a red lens is illuminated by rapid intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles shall stop before entering the nearest crosswalk at an intersection or at a limit line when marked 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 rapid intermittent flashes, drivers of vehicles may proceed through the intersection or past the signal only with caution.

(2) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979.

**257.615 Signs or lights resembling traffic-control devices or emergency vehicles; commercial advertising on traffic signs; prohibition; public nuisance; removal; placement of street decorations and banners.**

Sec. 615. (a) Except with authority of a statute or of a duly authorized public body or official, no person shall place, maintain, or display along any highway or upon any structure in or over any highway any sign, signal, marking, device, blinking, oscillating or rotating light or lights, decoration or banner which is or purports to be or is in imitation of or resembles or which can be mistaken for a traffic control device or railroad sign or signal, or which attempts to direct the movement of traffic, or which hides from view or interferes with the effectiveness of any traffic control device or any railroad sign or signal, and no person shall place or maintain nor shall any public authority permit upon any highway any traffic sign or signal bearing thereon any commercial advertising.

(b) No person shall place, maintain or display along any highway any blinking, oscillating or rotating light or lights sufficiently similar in color and design that they may be mistaken for the distinguishing lights authorized by law for emergency vehicles or that creates a hazard for the safety of drivers using said highways.

(c) Every such prohibited sign, signal, marking, device, decoration or banner is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and the authority having jurisdiction over the highway is hereby empowered to remove the same or cause to be removed without notice.

(d) Decorations or banners which may be placed over the traveled portion of any street or highway shall be placed not closer than 10 feet on either side of traffic lights or signals and shall be so placed as to not obstruct a clear view of such traffic lights or signals.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 1955, Act 245, Eff. Oct. 14, 1955;—Am. 1957, Act 112, Eff. Sept. 27, 1957;—Am. 1958, Act 98, Eff. Sept. 13, 1958.

**257.616 Repealed. 2016, Act 111, Eff. Aug. 8, 2016.**

**Compiler's note:** The repealed section pertained to prohibition against interference with traffic-control devices or railroad signs or signals.

**257.616a Portable signal preemptive device; prohibitions; penalties; exceptions; definitions.**

Sec. 616a. (1) Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4), a person shall not do any of the following:

(a) Possess a portable signal preemption device.

(b) Use a portable signal preemption device.

(c) Sell a portable signal preemption device to a person other than a person described in subsection (3).

(d) Purchase a portable signal preemption device for use other than a duty as described in subsections (3) and (4).

(2) A person who violates subsection (1) is guilty of a crime as follows:

(a) A person who violates subsection (1)(a) is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days or a fine of not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

(b) Except as provided in subdivisions (c), (d), and (e), a person who violates subsection (1)(b) is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 2 years or a fine of not more than \$10,000.00, or both.

(c) A person who violates subsection (1)(b), which violation results in a traffic accident, is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 5 years or a fine of not more than \$15,000.00, or both.

(d) A person who violates subsection (1)(b), which violation results in the serious impairment of a body function, is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 10 years or a fine of not more than \$20,000.00, or both.

(e) A person who violates subsection (1)(b), which violation results in the death of another, is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 15 years or a fine of not more than \$25,000.00, or both.

(f) A person who violates subsection (1)(c) or (d) is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 2 years or a fine of not more than \$10,000.00, or both.

(3) This section does not apply to any of the following:

(a) A law enforcement agency in the course of providing law enforcement services.

(b) A fire station or a firefighter in the course of providing fire prevention or fire extinguishing services.

(c) An emergency medical service or ambulance in the course of providing emergency medical transportation or ambulance services.

(d) An operator, passenger, or owner of an authorized emergency vehicle in the course of his or her

emergency duties.

(4) Subsection (1)(a) does not apply to either of the following:

(a) A mail or package delivery service or employee or agent of a mail or package delivery service in the course of shipping or delivering a portable signal preemption device.

(b) An employee or agent of a portable signal preemption device manufacturer or retailer in the course of his or her employment in providing, selling, manufacturing, or transporting a portable signal preemption device to an individual or agency described in this subsection.

(5) As used in this section:

(a) "Portable signal preemption device" means a device that, if activated by a person, is capable of changing a traffic control signal to green out of sequence.

(b) "Serious impairment of a body function" means that term as defined in section 58c.

**History:** Add. 2004, Act 25, Eff. June 14, 2004.