

"P" 1 (2021)

"M" 1 (2021)

Albany, New York

January 6, 2021

TO: All Enforcement Agencies and Magistrates

SUBJECT: Chapter 4 of the Laws of 2020 – Enhanced Penalties for Making an Illegal
U-Turn in an Altered Vehicle

Effective February 3, 2021, Chapter 4 of the Laws of 2020 amends subdivision (c) of section 1161 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) to increase the penalties for operators of altered vehicles, commonly referred to as "stretch limousines", having a seating capacity of nine or more passengers including the driver, who are convicted of making a U-turn upon any public highway.

Individuals convicted of violating this provision face increased penalties as follows:

- 1st conviction: a minimum \$250/maximum \$400 fine, and/or 15 days of imprisonment
- 2nd or subsequent conviction within 18 months: a minimum \$600/maximum \$750 fine and/or 45 days of imprisonment
- In addition, if the altered vehicle is carrying at least one passenger, the penalty shall be not less than \$750 or more than \$1,000, and/or 180 days of imprisonment

A copy of Chapter 4 of the Laws of 2020 is attached for reference. Please share this information with appropriate staff. Thank you.

Mark J.F. Schroeder
Commissioner

Attachment

Ch. 4, L. of 2020
App. 02/03/20
Eff -02/03/21

LAWS OF NEW YORK, 2020

CHAPTER 4

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to penalties for U-turn violations committed by operators of stretch limousines

Became a law February 3, 2020, with the approval of the Governor.
Passed by a majority vote, three-fifths being present.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision c of section 1161 of the vehicle and traffic law, as added by section 14 of part III of chapter 59 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:

c. No altered motor vehicle commonly referred to as a "stretch limousine" having a seating capacity of ~~ten~~ nine or more passengers including the driver shall make a U-turn upon any public highway or private road open to public motor vehicle traffic. **Every person convicted of a violation of this subdivision shall: for a first conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars nor more than four hundred dollars or by imprisonment for not more than fifteen days or by both such fine and imprisonment; for a conviction of a second or subsequent violation, both of which were committed within a period of eighteen months, such person shall be punished by a fine of not less than six hundred dollars nor more than seven hundred fifty dollars or by imprisonment for not more than forty-five days or by both such fine and imprisonment. A violation of this subdivision wherein the violator is operating such altered motor vehicle and such altered motor vehicle is carrying at least one passenger other than the driver shall be punishable by a fine of not less than seven hundred fifty dollars nor more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one hundred eighty days or by both such fine and imprisonment.**

§ 2. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law; provided, however that if part III of chapter 59 of the laws of 2019 shall not have taken effect on or before such date, then section one of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as such part of chapter 59 of the laws of 2019 takes effect.

The Legislature of the STATE OF NEW YORK **ss:**

Pursuant to the authority vested in us by section 70-b of the Public Officers Law, we hereby jointly certify that this slip copy of this session law was printed under our direction and, in accordance with such section, is entitled to be read into evidence.

ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS
Temporary President of the Senate

CARL E. HEASTIE
Speaker of the Assembly