

“P” 17 (2016)

“M” 14 (2016)

Albany, New York

October 18, 2016

TO: All Enforcement Agencies and Magistrates

SUBJECT: Chapter 448 of the Laws of 2016 – Use of Seatbelts in Fire Vehicles and Ambulances

Effective November 1, 2016, Chapter 448 of the Laws of 2016 amends Section 1229-c of the Vehicle and Traffic Law as follows:

- Section 1229-c(4)(a) is amended to expand the definition of a “motor vehicle” to include fire vehicles that are owned and/or operated by a fire company, as defined by subdivision two of section one hundred of the General Municipal Law, and ambulances that are owned and/or operated by a voluntary ambulance service, as defined by subdivision three of section one hundred of the General Municipal Law.
- Section 1229-c(3-a), regarding seat belt requirements for holders of a class DJ license or class DJ learner’s permit, is renumbered as Section 1229(3-b).
- A new Section 1229-c(10-a) is added to require that anyone age 16 or older be restrained by an approved safety belt when sitting in the rear seat of a fire vehicle or in the rear seat of an ambulance. This requirement does not apply when the rear seat is not required to be equipped with a safety belt or when emergency medical personnel are providing patient care in the rear compartment of an ambulance in accordance with applicable patient care standards, guidelines, and protocols established pursuant to Article thirty of the Public Health Law.
- Section 1229-c(5) is amended to include violations of subdivision 10-a as punishable by a civil fine of up to fifty dollars.

A copy of Chapter 448 is attached for your reference. Please share this information with appropriate staff. Thank you.

Theresa L. Egan
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Attachment

STATE OF NEW YORK

7315

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

May 5, 2015

Introduced by M. of A. THIELE, ABINANTI, BRINDISI, FAHY, GALEF, GUNTHER, JAFFEE, PAULIN, STIRPE -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. GOODELL, LIFTON, MAGEE, MILLER, SKARTADOS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to the use of seatbelts by volunteer firefighters

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

- 1 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 4 of section 1229-c of the
2 vehicle and traffic law, as separately amended by chapters 232 and 509
3 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read as follows:
4 (a) "motor vehicle" shall include all motor vehicles which are
5 required by section three hundred eighty-three of this chapter or regu-
6 lation or would be required if such motor vehicle were registered in New
7 York state to be equipped by a safety belt but shall not include those
8 vehicles which are used as school buses, as such term is defined in
9 section one hundred forty-two of this chapter and those vehicles which
10 are authorized emergency vehicles, as such term is defined in section
11 one hundred one of this chapter, provided, however, that for purposes of
12 this section, "motor vehicle" shall also include fire vehicles owned
13 and/or operated by a fire company as defined by subdivision two of
14 section one hundred of the general municipal law and ambulances owned
15 and/or operated by a voluntary ambulance service as defined by subdivi-
16 sion three of section one hundred of the general municipal law;
17 § 2. Subdivision 3-a of section 1229-c of the vehicle and traffic law,
18 as amended by chapter 403 of the laws of 2009, is renumbered subdivision
19 3-b.
20 § 3. Section 1229-c of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by
21 adding a new subdivision 10-a to read as follows:
22 10-a. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision one of this
23 section, no person sixteen years of age or over shall be a passenger in

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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- 1 the rear seat of a fire vehicle owned and/or operated by a fire company
2 as defined by subdivision two of section one hundred of the general
3 municipal law or in the rear seat of an ambulance owned and/or operated
4 by a voluntary ambulance service as defined by subdivision three of
5 section one hundred of the general municipal law unless such person is

6 restrained by a safety belt approved by the commissioner. Provided,
7 however, that the provisions of this subdivision shall not apply: (a) to
8 a passenger in the rear seat of such fire vehicle or ambulance if such
9 seat is not required to be equipped with safety belts pursuant to the
10 provisions of section three hundred eighty-three of this chapter, nor
11 (b) to emergency medical personnel during the course of providing
12 patient care in the rear compartment of an ambulance in accordance with
13 applicable patient care standards, guidelines and protocols established
14 pursuant to article thirty of the public health law.

15 § 4. Subdivision 5 of section 1229-c of the vehicle and traffic law,
16 as amended by chapter 241 of the laws of 2007, is amended to read as
17 follows:

18 5. Any person who violates the provisions of subdivision three or
19 ten-a of this section shall be punished by a civil fine of up to fifty
20 dollars. Any person who violates the provisions of subdivision one, two,
21 eleven or thirteen of this section shall be punished by a civil fine of
22 not less than twenty-five nor more than one hundred dollars. In any
23 prosecution or proceeding alleging a violation of paragraph (b) of
24 subdivision one or paragraph (c) of subdivision two of this section, it
25 shall be an affirmative defense that the passenger subject to the
26 requirements of such paragraphs was restrained by a safety belt and
27 measures more than four feet nine inches in height and/or weighs more
28 than one hundred pounds.

29 § 5. This act shall take effect on the first of November next succeed-
30 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.