

"P" 21 (2020)

"M" 16 (2020)

Albany, New York

December 16, 2020

TO: All Enforcement Agencies and Magistrates

SUBJECT: Chapter 10 of the Laws of 2020 – Safety belts in an altered motor vehicle
commonly referred to as a "stretch limousine"

Effective January 1, 2021, Chapter 10 of the Laws of 2020 amends the Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) as follows:

- Vehicles altered on or after January 1, 2021 to become "stretch limousines" must have at least two safety belts for the front seat and at least one safety belt for each passenger seat position. VTL §383 (1)(d)
- All safety belts installed in an altered motor vehicle, a.k.a. "stretch limousine," must be clearly visible, accessible, and maintained in good working order and shall not be removed. VTL §383 (4-b)
- Vehicles altered on or after January 1, 2021 to become "stretch limousines" must have posted therein the following notice: "Seatbelts must be available for your use. Please buckle up." VTL §375 (51)

A copy of chapter 10 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. 10, L. of 2020

App. 02/03/20

Eff -01/01/21

§2 Eff. 2/3/22

LAWS OF NEW YORK, 2020

CHAPTER 10

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to the installation of safety belts in stretch limousines, and the posting of notice therein

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. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 1 of section 383 of the vehicle and traffic law, as added by chapter 86 of the laws of 1968, is amended and a new paragraph (d) is added to read as follows:

(c) A motor vehicle manufactured or assembled on or after January first, nineteen hundred sixty-eight, at least one safety belt for each passenger seat position~~[-]~~;

(d) An altered motor vehicle commonly referred to as a "stretch limousine" which was altered on or after January first, two thousand twenty-one, at least two safety belts for the front seat, and at least one safety belt for the rear seat for each passenger for which the rear seat of such vehicle was designed, and at least one safety belt for each passenger seat position.

§ 2. Section 383 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subdivision 1-a to read as follows:

1-a. No altered motor vehicle commonly referred to as a "stretch limousine" which was altered prior to January first, two thousand twenty-one shall be sold or registered in this state and no such altered motor vehicle altered prior to January first, two thousand twenty-one registered in this state shall be operated in this state unless such vehicle is retrofitted and equipped with safety belts approved by and conforming to standards established by the commissioner as follows: at least two safety belts for the front seat, and at least one safety belt for the rear seat for each passenger for which the rear seat of such vehicle was designed, and at least one safety belt for each passenger seat position.

§ 3. Subdivision 4-b of section 383 of the vehicle and traffic law, as added by chapter 495 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

4-b. Taxicabs ~~[and]~~, liveries, **and stretch limousines**. All seat safety belts installed in a taxicab or livery vehicle **or in an altered motor vehicle commonly referred to as a "stretch limousine"** pursuant to this section shall be clearly visible, accessible and maintained in good working order, and no seat safety belt installed in such taxicab or livery vehicle **or altered motor vehicle** shall be removed therefrom.

§ 4. Subdivision 51 of section 375 of the vehicle and traffic law, as added by chapter 495 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

51. Taxicab [~~and~~], livery and stretch limousine notices. (a) Every taxicab [~~and~~], livery, and altered motor vehicle commonly referred to as a "stretch limousine" which was altered on or after January first, two thousand twenty-one or retrofitted pursuant to subdivision one-a of

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

CHAP. 10

2

section three hundred eighty-three of this article registered in this state shall have posted therein the following notice: "Seatbelts must be available for your use. Please buckle up."

(b) The notices required to be posted pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision shall be posted in a manner legible and conspicuous to passengers in all seating positions of such vehicles.

§ 5. Severability. If any clause, sentence, subdivision, paragraph, section or part of this act be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, or if any federal agency determines in writing that this act would render New York state ineligible for the receipt of federal funds, such judgment or written determination shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, subdivision, paragraph, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or written determination shall have been rendered.

§ 6. This act shall take effect January 1, 2021; provided, however, that section two of this act shall take effect two years after this act shall have become a law; provided, further, this act shall be deemed repealed if any federal agency determines in writing that this act would render New York state ineligible for the receipt of federal funds or any court of competent jurisdiction finally determines that this act would render New York state out of compliance with federal law or regulation. The commissioner of motor vehicles or the commissioner of transportation shall notify the legislative bill drafting commission upon the occurrence of any federal agency determining in writing that this act would render New York state ineligible for the receipt of federal funds or any court of competent jurisdiction finally determines that this act would render New York state out of compliance with federal law or regulation in order that the commission may maintain an accurate and timely effective data base of the official text of the laws of the state of New York in furtherance of effectuating the provisions of section 44 of the legislative law and section 70-b of the public officers law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.

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