

1 H.629

2 Introduced by Representative Hashim of Dummerston

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Motor vehicles; transportation; move over law; work zone

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend the
7 law requiring an operator of a motor vehicle to move over when approaching
8 stationary law enforcement and emergency vehicles, require the operator of the
9 approaching vehicle to slow down if it is not possible to change lanes, and
10 extend the law to also apply when an operator of a motor vehicle approaches a
11 work zone.

12 An act relating to requiring motor vehicles to move over when approaching
13 stationary law enforcement and emergency vehicles or workers in a work
14 zone

15 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

16 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1050 is amended to read:

17 § 1050. OPERATION ON APPROACH OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND
18 EMERGENCY VEHICLES OR WHEN APPROACHING
19 STATIONARY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY
20 VEHICLES OR WORK ZONE

1 (a) Approach of law enforcement and emergency vehicles. Upon the
2 approach of a law enforcement vehicle ~~which is~~ sounding a siren or displaying
3 a blue or blue and white signal lamp, or both, or upon the approach of an
4 ambulance, fire apparatus, a vehicle operated by a volunteer firefighter, ~~EMS~~
5 ~~personnel~~, or a motor vehicle used in rescue operations as set forth in section
6 1252 of this title ~~which is~~ sounding a siren or displaying a red or red and white
7 signal lamp, or both, all other vehicles shall pull to the right of the lane of
8 traffic and come to a complete stop; until the law enforcement or emergency
9 vehicle has passed. ~~However, an enforcement officer who is present shall have~~
10 ~~full power to regulate traffic irrespective of the foregoing provisions.~~

11 (b) Approaching law enforcement and emergency vehicles. The operator
12 of a vehicle ~~which is~~ approaching a stationary law enforcement vehicle ~~which~~
13 ~~is~~ displaying a blue or blue and white signal lamp; ~~or of a vehicle which is~~
14 ~~approaching~~ a stationary ambulance, fire apparatus, a vehicle operated by a
15 volunteer firefighter, or a motor vehicle used in rescue operations as set forth
16 in section 1252 of this title ~~which is~~ displaying a red or red and white signal
17 lamp; ~~or a stationary towing and repair vehicle displaying an amber signal~~
18 ~~lamp;~~ shall proceed with caution; and, if traveling on a ~~four-lane~~ multilane
19 highway; and safety conditions permit, make a lane change into a lane farther
20 away from the stationary vehicle. If the operator of the approaching vehicle
21 must remain in the lane adjacent to the stationary vehicle, then the operator

1 shall slow down to a reasonable, safe, and prudent speed given the safety
2 conditions and posted speed limit.

3 (c) Approaching work zone. The operator of a vehicle approaching a
4 properly designated work zone shall proceed with caution and slow down to a
5 reasonable, safe, and prudent speed given the safety conditions and posted
6 speed limit. If workers are only present on one side of a multilane highway
7 and safety conditions permit, the operator shall remain in or make a lane
8 change into a lane farther away from the workers.

9 (d) Authority of law enforcement. This section does not relieve the
10 operator of an authorized law enforcement or emergency vehicle from the duty
11 to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway or the
12 authority of law enforcement to regulate traffic irrespective of the foregoing
13 provisions.

14 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.