Session of 2021

HOUSE BILL No. 2107

By Representative Collins

1-21

AN ACT concerning funeral processions; relating to the regulation thereof; creating a violation for not yielding the right-of-way to funeral processions; amending K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 8-2118 and repealing the existing section; also repealing K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 8-2118c.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. As used in sections 1 through 5, and amendments thereto:

(a) "Funeral procession" means two or more vehicles accompanying the body of a deceased person, or traveling to the cemetery, church, chapel or other location where the funeral service is to be held, in the daylights hours, including a funeral lead vehicle or a funeral escort.

- (b) "Funeral lead vehicle" means any authorized law enforcement or nonlaw enforcement motor vehicle properly equipped pursuant to K.S.A. 8-1723, and amendments thereto, or a funeral escort vehicle being used to lead and facilitate the movement of a funeral procession. A funeral hearse may serve as a funeral lead vehicle.
- (c) "Funeral escort" means a person or entity that provides escort services for funeral processions, including law enforcement personnel and agencies and groups designated to escort military funeral processions.

New Sec. 2. (a) Notwithstanding any provision of state law or local ordinance relating to traffic control devices or right-of-way provisions, pedestrians and operators of all vehicles, except as stated in subsection (c), shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle that is a part of a funeral procession being led by a funeral lead vehicle or accompanied by a funeral escort.

- (b) Except as provided in subsection (c), when the funeral lead vehicle lawfully enters an intersection, either by reason of a traffic control device or at the direction of law enforcement personnel, the remaining vehicles in the funeral procession may follow such funeral lead vehicle through the intersection regardless of any traffic control devices or right-of-way provisions prescribed by state law, city ordinance or county resolution.
- (c) Funeral processions shall have the right-of-way at intersections regardless of traffic control devices, subject to the following conditions and exceptions:

Technical Amendments to HB 2107
For House Committee on Transportation
February 3, 2021
Prepared by: Chris Waggoner
Office of Revisor of Statutes

HB 2107

(1) Operators of vehicles in a funeral procession shall yield the right-of-way to an approaching authorized emergency vehicle, as defined in K.S.A. 8-1404, and amendments thereto, using an audible signal meeting the requirements of K.S.A. 8-1738, and amendments thereto, or a visual signal meeting the requirements of K.S.A. 8-1720, and amendments thereto;

- (2) operators of vehicles in a funeral procession shall yield the right-of-way when directed by a police officer;
- (3) operators of vehicles in a funeral procession shall exercise due care when participating in a funeral procession and avoid colliding with any other vehicle or pedestrian in accordance with K.S.A. 8-1535, and amendments thereto; and
- (4) an operator of a vehicle in a funeral procession shall not have the right-of-way at an intersection, if the vehicle is more than 300 feet behind the immediately preceding vehicle in the funeral procession.
- New Sec. 3. (a) All vehicles comprising a funeral procession shall follow the preceding vehicle in the funeral procession as closely as is practical and safe.
- (b) In accordance with K.S.A. 8-1523, and amendments thereto, any state law, city ordinance or county resolution stating that motor vehicles shall be operated to allow sufficient space, enabling any other vehicle to enter and occupy such space without danger, shall not be applicable to funeral processions.
- (c) Each vehicle that is a part of a funeral procession shall have such vehicle's headlights, either high beam or low beam, and tail lights lighted and may also use flashing hazard lights if the vehicle is so equipped.
- New Sec. 4. Nothing in sections 1 through 3, and amendments thereto, shall be construed to prohibit any city or county from requiring:
- (a) A law enforcement or nonlaw enforcement funeral lead vehicle or funeral escort for a funeral procession. A city or county and may require prior notice of a planned funeral procession be given to the city police department or the county sheriff; or
- (b) compliance with any other city ordinance or county resolution, not in conflict with the provisions of sections 1 through 3.
- Sec. 5. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 8-2118 is hereby amended to read as follows: 8-2118. (a) A person charged with a traffic infraction shall, except as provided in subsection (b), appear at the place and time specified in the notice to appear. If the person enters an appearance, waives right to trial, pleads guilty or no contest, the fine shall be no greater than that specified in the uniform fine schedule in subsection (c) and court costs shall be taxed as provided by law.
- (b) Prior to the time specified in the notice to appear, a person charged with a traffic infraction may enter a written appearance, waive

, and amendments thereto

New Sec. 5. Sections 1 through 4, and amendments thereto, shall be a part of and supplemental to the uniform act regulating traffic on highways.