

CHAPTER 254  
SB 273-FN - FINAL VERSION

2025 SESSION

25-0314  
11/09

SENATE BILL

***273-FN***

AN ACT relative to motorist duties when approaching highway emergencies involving a stopped or standing vehicle.

SPONSORS: Sen. Fenton, Dist 10; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Sen. Lang, Dist 2; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Long, Dist 20; Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Sen. Ricciardi, Dist 9; Rep. Crawford, Carr. 3; Rep. Sykes, Graf. 14; Rep. T. Walsh, Merr. 10; Rep. D. Fox, Ches. 2; Rep. Gorski, Hills. 2

COMMITTEE: Transportation

---

ANALYSIS

This bill adds stopped or standing vehicles as highway emergencies requiring approaching drivers to give a wide berth.

-----

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

CHAPTER 254  
SB 273-FN - FINAL VERSION

25-0314  
11/09

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five*

AN ACT relative to motorist duties when approaching highway emergencies involving a stopped or standing vehicle.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 254:1 Short Title. This act shall be known as "Sherrill's Law".

2 254:2 Motorist Duties; Approaching Stopped or Standing Vehicles. Amend RSA 265:37-a, I to read  
3 as follows:

4 I. When in or approaching an incident involving a fire, collision, disaster, utility construction or  
5 maintenance, or other emergency resulting in partial or complete blockage of a highway, or a location  
6 where a police officer has made a traffic stop, ***or a stopped or standing vehicle displaying warning signals,***  
7 ***including vehicle hazard warning lights, road flares, traffic cones, caution signs, or any nonvehicular***  
8 ***warning signs,*** every driver other than the driver of an emergency response vehicle, shall:

9 (a) Maintain a reduced speed ***and if practical give a wide berth, without endangering***  
10 ***oncoming traffic, to public safety personnel, any persons in the roadway, and vehicles displaying blue,***  
11 ***red, or amber emergency, warning lights, or a stopped or standing vehicle.***

12 (b) Obey the directions of any authorized person directing traffic and of all applicable  
13 emergency signals and traffic control devices.

14 (c) Vacate as soon as possible any lane wholly or partially blocked.

15 ~~[(d) Give a wide berth, without endangering oncoming traffic, to public safety personnel, any~~  
16 ~~persons in the roadway, and vehicles displaying blue, red, or amber emergency or warning lights.]~~

17 254:3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: July 15, 2025  
Effective Date: September 13, 2025

