

# Updates to the 2024 Standard Traffic Ordinance and the Uniform Public Offense Code

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It is that time of year when the League updates the *Standard Traffic Ordinance* (STO) and the *Uniform Public Offense Code* (UPOC) with the changes made by the Kansas Legislature. This year also includes a change based off the Kansas Supreme Court decision, *City of Wichita v. Griffie*, 318 Kan. 510 (2024). This article describes those changes.

## Changes to the STO

### *Sec. 23. Accident Involving Death or Personal Injuries; Duties of Drivers, Reports; Penalties.*

Previously, drivers involved in an accident with more than \$1,000 of property damage that did not remain at the scene of an accident were subject to a penalty of up to one year of imprisonment and/or a fine up to \$2,500. HB 2665 amended the property damage amount to clarify the penalty applies to any property damage of \$1,000 or more.

### *Sec. 114.5. Unlawful Operation of a Work-Site Utility Vehicle.*

The League discovered the references to all-terrain vehicles in subsection (c) were incorrect and updated the section with the correct references to work-site utility vehicles.

### *Sec. 201.1. Failure to Comply with a Traffic Citation.*

This section has been updated to sunset at 11:59 p.m., on December 31, 2024. Upon its sunset, new section 201.2 will take effect.

### *Sec. 201.2. Failure to Comply with a Traffic Citation.*

This section takes effect on January 1, 2025, and reflects changes made by SB 500 regarding the failure to comply with a traffic citation. Previously, an individual violated this provision if they did not appear before municipal court and pay their fine and court costs in full. Now, a violation occurs when an individual does not appear in municipal court and pay their fine and court costs as ordered by the court.

In addition, municipal courts can no longer seek the suspension of an individual's license for failing to comply with the following traffic citations:

- Sec. 18. Interference with Official Traffic-Control Devices or Railroad Signs or Signals;
- Sec. 63. Pedestrians; Obedience to Traffic-Control Devices and Regulations;
- Sec. 65. Crossing at Other Than Crosswalks; Jaywalking;
- Sec. 67. Pedestrians to Use Right Half of Crosswalks;
- Sec. 68. Pedestrians on Highways;
- Sec. 69. Pedestrians Soliciting Rides or Business;
- Sec. 74. Pedestrian Under Influence of Alcohol or Drugs;

- Sec. 83. Stopping, Standing or Parking Outside Business or Residence Districts;
- Sec. 85. Stopping, Standing or Parking Prohibited in Specified Places;
- Sec. 86. Stopping or Parking on Roadways;
- Sec. 107. Unattended Motor Vehicle; Ignition; Key and Brakes;
- Sec. 112. Putting Glass, Etc. on Highway Prohibited;
- Sec. 112.1. Littering from a Motor Vehicle;
- Sec. 114. Snowmobile Operation Limited;
- Sec. 114.4. Unlawful Operation of a Golf Cart;
- Sec. 115. Unlawful Riding on Vehicles; Persons 14 Years of Age and Older;
- Sec. 124. Riding in House Trailer or Mobile or Manufactured Home Prohibited;
- Sec. 127. Effect of Regulations;
- Sec. 129. Riding on Bicycles; Seats; Riders Limited
- Sec. 130. Clinging to Vehicles;
- Sec. 131. Riding on Roadways and Bicycle Paths;
- Sec. 132. Carrying Articles;
- Sec. 133. Lamps and Other Equipment on Bicycles;
- Sec. 135.1. Electric Assisted Scooters, Traffic Law Application; and
- Sec. 182.2. Unlawful Riding on Vehicles; Persons Under Age 14.

SB 500 mandates that the Kansas Department of Revenue Division of Vehicles restrict, rather than suspend, an individual's license if they meet specific eligibility criteria. SB 500 also requires municipal courts:

1. assess a license reinstatement fee of \$100 instead of \$100 for each charge;
2. provide a form for any individual seeking to petition the court to waive fines or fees; and
3. consider waivers and alternatives to restricting or suspending a license.

