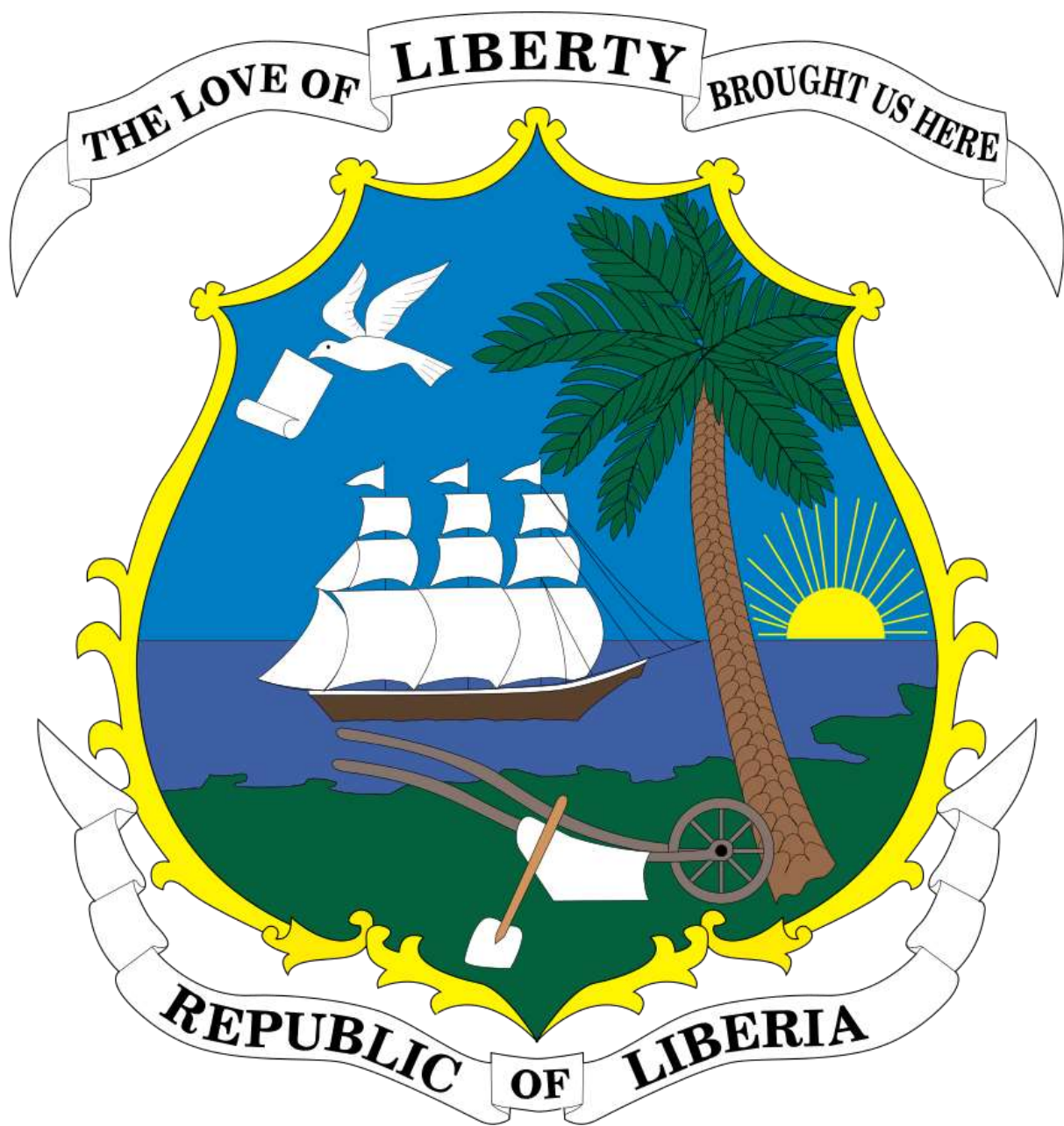




## **SECOND DRAFT OF REVISED VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC LAW OF LIBERIA 2022**

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## PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, The Liberian Code of Laws Revised came into effect on October 17, 1972 as the governing law for the control of vehicles and traffic in Liberia and has been operational from that period until the present time;

WHEREAS, the law as revised in 1972 represented a period in the advancement of transportation technology and developments that have been surpassed by modern advancements and changed circumstances that have rendered the law obsolete in part and deserving of changes in other parts in order to reflect the modern dynamics;

NOW THEREFORE, it is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia, in Legislature assembled.

## PART I PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Section 1 Title/Short Title §1.1 Title This Act is entitled “An Act to Revise and Amend the Vehicle and Traffic Laws of Liberia approved October 17, 1972;

## **Chapter 1. PRELIMINARY PROVISION**

### **§ 1.1. Definition of terms.**

### **§ 1.2. Application of title.**

### **§ 1.3. Interpretation.**

### **§ 1.4. Limitation on local traffic regulations.**

**§ 1.1. Definition of terms.** The following words and phrases when used in this title shall, for the purpose of this title, have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section except where another definition is expressly provided:

- (a) The term “driver” applies to a person who pushes, pulls, draws, propels, operates, or supervises the propulsion or operation of a vehicle, or who drives, leads, or rides a horse or draft animal or beast of burden.
- (b) The term “driving school” means an institution of learning that instructs learners in the proper means of operating a motor vehicle or other vehicles that operate on the streets and highway.
- (c) The term “driving instructor” means a person licensed to teach the proper operation of a motor vehicle or other vehicles that operate on the streets and highway, and to teach road rules and safe driving practices.
- (d) The term “driving license” means a document issued to an individual by the Ministry of Transport as evidence of that person’s authority to operate a motor vehicle of the class indicated on the license.
- (e) The term “emergency vehicle” means all categories of vehicles used in law enforcement, medical evacuations or transportation, fire service operations or as designated by law to be emergency vehicles.

(f) The term “highway” means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way, paved or unpaved, which is intended for vehicular traffic in an urban or rural setting.

(g) The term “Minister” means the Minister of Transport or the Minister of Justice or Minister of Education where applicable.

(h) The term “motor vehicle” means a vehicle that is self- propelled by means of an internal combustion, oil compression, electric, steam, or other mechanical or chemical engine or motor.

(i) The term “operator” refers to a person who operates or drives a motor vehicle.

(j) An “owner” is the person, other than a lien holder, who holds the legal title of a vehicle. The term includes a person entitled to the use and possession of a vehicle subject to a security interest in another person, but excludes a lessee under a lease not intended as security.

(k) The term “road” or “roadway” means that portion of a highway or street exclusive of the shoulder.

(l) The term “Pedestrians” means a person walking along a road or street or highway used by vehicles.

(m) The term “shoulder” refers to a paved or unpaved path which runs immediately alongside a paved or finished road, and which shall be used for parking or emergency stops and for pedestrians when there is no sidewalk or footpath.

(n) The term “sidewalk” means that portion of a street running parallel between property lines, intended for the use of pedestrians.

(o) The term “street” means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way, paved or unpaved, which is intended for vehicular traffic.

(p) The term “traffic court” means any court having jurisdiction over traffic infractions under the provisions of the Judiciary Law.

(q) The term “vehicle” means: (i) any contrivance, whether or not self-propelled, which is designed for the transportation or carriage of persons or things on land including those that are confined to tracks or rails; (ii) any horse or draft animal or beast of burden, whether mounted or led; and (iii)

any tractor or other farm or industrial equipment or machinery when moving under its own power; or other vehicle not customarily employed for transportation or carriage on the public streets or roads.

(r) The term “curb” means the vertical or sloping edging along a roadway clearly defining the pavement edge.

(s) The term “jaywalking” means crossing the street at a place other than the regular crossing point or being on the street in an unauthorized manner and against traffic rules.

(t) The term “infant” means a child in the earliest period of its life one year and below.

(u) The term “toddler” means child in the stage of life between the age of one to three years old.

**§ 1.2 Application of title.** The provisions of this title shall apply to roads publicly owned or controlled and the operation of vehicles thereon. Subject to the contrary provisions of any contractual agreement by the Government, the provisions of this title shall also apply to vehicles operated on tracks, roads privately owned or controlled which are open to public use, and to the operation of vehicles on such roads. Private roads not open to public use shall be within the application of this title only in so far as expressly provided by statute.

**§ 1.3. Interpretation.** The provision of this title shall be so interpreted as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform and modernize the traffic laws of Liberia.

**§ 1.4. Limitation on local traffic regulations.** No county, township, territory, district created by special charter, city, municipal district, or commonwealth district shall make, promulgate, or enforce any special rule or regulations duplicating or contrary to any provision of this title or to the rules and regulations which may be promulgated in pursuance thereof.

## **CHAPTER 2      DRIVERS LICENSING**

### **2.1    Driver’s License   Required for All Vehicle Operators**

Every vehicle operator in the Republic of Liberia is required to have a valid driver’s license as evidence of qualification to operate the vehicle. Driver’s licenses shall be issued in categories according to the category of the vehicle. No one may operate a vehicle unless that person is the holder of a valid driver’s licence issued for the category of vehicle or higher. The Ministry of Transport

shall keep the registry of all driver's licenses issued and transmit the registry to the Ministry of Justice as required.

## **2.2 Driver's licenses shall be issued by the Ministry of Transport**

The Ministry of Transport shall issue driver's licenses to qualified drivers who have passed a written and a practical driving test. No one shall be qualified to sit a driving test unless that person shall present a certificate from an accredited driving school as evidence of satisfactory driver qualification. The Ministry of Transport shall issue regulations for the cost of driver's licenses in United States Dollars or its Liberian Dollars equivalent.

## **2.3 Foreign Driver's Licenses to be Recognised for Limited Period**

A holder of a valid foreign issued driver's license may operate a vehicle in Liberia for a period not to exceed three months. The foreign issued driver's license shall lose its validity after the expiration of the three- months period and the holder shall be required to acquire a Liberian driver's license or lose driving privilege in Liberia.

## **2.4 Legal Driving Age**

No person shall be issued a Driver's license unless that person shall have first attained the age of Eighteen (18) years and has completed the period of training prescribed by a recognised driving school. Provisional driver's licenses may be issued to those sixteen (16) years old and above with special restrictions for a licensed adult supervision at all times while the provisional license holder is driving. Driving age limits for other categories of licenses shall be set by the Ministry of Transport.

## **2.5 Holder of Driver's License shall be Tested upon Application for Renewal**

Holders of valid driver's licenses who have not attended a driving school shall be tested upon the first application for renewal of the driver's license. The driving test shall be conducted by the Ministry of Transport and the Liberian National Police, and shall consist of a written test, a practical test and a physical examination.

## **2.6 Written Tests Required for Literate Drivers**

Written tests for driver's licenses shall be prescribed only for those applicants who can read and write. Tests for illiterate drivers shall be specially designed to ensure a proper understanding of traffic rules and road signs. Illiterate drivers who fail the practical test shall be denied a driver's license.

## **2.7 Physical Examination to include Eye Tests**

Every applicant for a driver's license or renewal of a driver's license must undergo an eye examination to determine whether the applicant has the ability to drive without posing a threat to himself or the public. Applicants with a substantially reduced ability to see shall be denied a driver's license. Applicants with other physical disabilities that impair the ability to drive safely may also be denied a driver's license unless the vehicle is specifically modified to suit the disability, or a medical certificate is provided from a recognized medical facility, indicated that the person with disability can safely operate a vehicle. Individuals with special needs shall be issued special licenses according to their condition.

## **2.8 Revocation of Driving Privilege**

A driver's license may be revoked or suspended for cause, including for improper driving resulting to loss of life, damage to private property or public infrastructure or failure to obey law enforcement or posted traffic control signs. Driver's licenses shall be revoked only after a due process hearing before a traffic court judge.

## **2.9 Suspension of Driving Privilege to Include Payment of Fine**

Suspension of driver's licenses shall be accompanied by the issuance of a fine of Fifty United States Dollars (\$50.00) or its Liberian Dollar equivalent. The suspension shall remain in force until the fine is paid in addition to the completion of any other restriction imposed.

## **2.10 Driving Without License, with a Suspended or Fake License Prohibited**

1. It is prohibited to operate a vehicle without a valid driver's license. A person operating a vehicle without a valid license has committed an offense. Drivers are required to be in physical possession of the license at all times while operating a vehicle. Driving without a valid driver's license shall be an offense punishable by a fine not less than One Hundred United States Dollars (\$100.00)

or its Liberian dollars equivalent and not more than One Hundred Fifty United States Dollars (\$150.00) or its Liberian Dollar equivalent or a prison term of three months or both.

2. A person who operates a vehicle with a suspended license has committed an offense and shall pay a fine of not less than One Hundred Fifty United States Dollars (\$150.00) or more than Two Hundred United States Dollars (\$200.00) or the Liberian Dollars equivalent or a prison term of six months or both.

3. Driving with a fake or altered License shall be considered driving without a license and shall be treated as a major violation that shall be referred for prosecution under the penal code of Liberia. There shall first be a preliminary hearing before a Traffic Court Judge and thereafter the matter may be transferred to the relevant court having jurisdiction over such matter.

### **2.11 Licence granted in error**

A person who is issued a driver's license in error or a license containing a mistake of omission or of any other kind shall notify the Ministry of Transport upon discovering the error and shall be issued a corrected license. The Ministry may also recall a license issued in error or with omissions and the holder shall be required to comply. Errors on a driver's license may include:

- a) Misspelling of the Name
- b) Wrong address
- c) Wrong category of License
- d) Wrong duration of License
- e) Issuance to a Minor or person with driving disability

### **2.12 Obtaining a License Under False Pretences**

Obtaining a license under false pretences shall be considered a major violation. False pretences shall include using a false name or using the name of a known person by pretending to be that other person or otherwise misrepresenting information to the issuing authority. False pretences should be treated as a fake license as indicated in 2.10 (3).

### **2.13 Ministry of Education to Have Authority to Regulate Driving Schools**

The Ministry of Education shall have the authority to supervise and regulate the establishment and operation of driving schools and shall issue the appropriate certificate to operate a driving school to those applicants that are duly qualified.

Applicants wanting to operate a driving school must fill up an application form designated by the Ministry accompanied by payment of the required fees.

#### **2.13.2 Driving Schools to be Inspected prior to Approval**

The Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Ministries of Transport and Justice shall inspect the qualification of the driving school's instructors as well as the equipment and facilities. A driving school may be certified upon satisfactory completion of inspection of the driving school instructors, equipment and facilities.

#### **2.13.3 Driving School Certificate May Be Revoked by Authority**

Where the Licensing Authority have received evidence that the registered driving school no longer complies with the requirements of the Ministry of Education, it may suspend the registration of the driving school for a period as it may determine, or the registration may be revoked as required.

#### **2.13.4. Qualifications of Driving Instructors**

A person is eligible to serve as a driving instructor who has:

- i. taken and passed the prescribed examination and obtained an instructor license;
- ii. is a licensed driver holding a valid license prescribed by the Ministry of Transport;
- iii. has a medical certificate that clears him/her of all mental or physical impediment to serve as an instructor;
- iv. is certified in the class or classes that he/she will serve as instructor

#### **2.13.5. Application to Register as a Driving Instructor**

- 1 An application for a driving school instructor certificate shall be made to the Ministry of Education on a form prescribed by the Ministry.
2. The applicant must pay the required fees.

3. The applicant must hold a valid driver's license
4. The applicant must pass a physical examination

**2.13.6. Ministry of Education to keep Register of Driving Schools and Instructors**

The Ministry of Education shall keep a register of all driving schools in the Republic of Liberia and shall have a listing of all eligible driving instructors by categories. The register shall be updated by the Ministry when satisfied that the applicant has met the requirements or when a registered person is delisted in keeping with established regulations.

**2.13.7. Driving Schools and Driving Instructors to be Examined Periodically**

Driving schools and qualified driving instructors shall submit to periodic examination to ascertain continued competence and physical ability. The Ministry of Education shall prescribe the time and manner of inspections. A certificate previously issued by the Ministry may be revoked for cause upon inspection of the school or instructor. The revocation shall state the grounds thereof and shall be subject to appeal to the Traffic Court.

**2.13.8 Display of Registration Certificate**

1. A certified driving instructor shall display his/her license at all times so as to be identified as an instructor.
2. A driving school must display its registration certificate in a prominently visible location at its place of business.

**2.13.9. Duration of Registration Certificates for Driving Instructors and Schools**

1. The driving school registration certificate shall be valid for a period of two (2) years and may be renewed upon application to the Ministry of Education. Renewal shall be based all requirements having been met as indicated herein.

2. The driving instructors certificate shall be valid for a period of three (3) years and shall be renewable upon an application to the Ministry of Education. Renewal shall be based on all requirements having been met as indicated herein.

#### **2.13.10. Surrender of certificate when Revoked**

A driving school certificate holder is required to surrender the school's certificate to operate when revoked by the Ministry of Education by submitting same to the Ministry. It shall be an offense to continue to operate after the certificate has been revoked. Violators shall be punished by a fine of not less than Three Hundred United States Dollars (\$300.00) or more than Four Hundred United States Dollars (\$400.00) or the Liberian dollars equivalent or be subject to closure or both.

#### **2.13.11. Police to Inspect Certificates of Driving Schools and Instructors**

1. Holders of valid driving school certificates shall be subject to inspection by the Liberian National Police at any time during business hours and shall be required to comply. Failure to comply shall be an offense punishable by a fine of not less than Three Hundred United States Dollars (\$300.00) or more than Three Hundred and Fifty United States dollars (\$350.00) or the Liberian dollar equivalent or be subject to closure or both.

2. Holders of valid driving instructor certificate shall be subject to inspection by the Liberian National Police at any time during business hour and shall be required to comply. Failure to comply shall be an offense punishable by a fine of not less than One Hundred United States Dollars (\$100.00) or more than One Hundred and Fifty United States Dollars (\$150.00) or the Liberian dollars equivalent or a prison term of three months or both.

3. The Ministry of Education shall maintain a register of all driving schools and driving school instructors and shall share all such information with the Ministries of Transport and Justice.

### **2.14 Cancellation, Suspension and Revocation of licenses**

The Ministry of Education shall cancel, suspend or revoke a driving school instructor's license for fraud or misinformation or violation of other provisions herein.

### **Chapter Three: REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

#### **3.1 Categories of Motor Vehicles**

Vehicles under this Act shall fall under the following categories:

- i. Category A: Vehicles carrying passengers
  1. Private Use Vehicles
  2. Commercial Use Vehicles
  3. Special Use Vehicles
- ii. Category C: Vehicles carrying goods
  1. Private Use Vehicles Carrying Goods
  2. Commercial Use Vehicles Carrying Goods
- iii. Category M: Motorcycles, 3-wheel vehicles and Others
  1. Commercial Motorcycles, 3 Wheel Vehicles and Others
  2. Private Use Motorcycles, 3-Wheel Vehicles and Others
- iv. Category H: Heavy duty commercial and earth moving vehicles
  1. Earth Moving Machines and Self-Moving Equipment
- v. Category T: Trailers and Agricultural and forestry tractors and their trailers
- vi. Category L: Locomotive

#### **3.2 Authority to set registration fees**

1. The Minister of Transport shall have the authority to set registration fees for the various categories of vehicles, and for Trailers. The fees set may be adjusted from time to time based on prevailing economic and other conditions.

2. Vehicles owned by the Government of Liberia shall not be subject to payment of registration fees. All such vehicles shall be granted special categories of exempt license plates. Vehicles that are in official use by members of the National Legislature or Justices of the Supreme Court of Liberia shall also be exempt from vehicle registration fees and shall also be granted exempt license plates. All constitutional officers in the Republic of Liberia shall have their official vehicles exempted from vehicle registration fees and shall be provided exempt License plates.
3. Vehicles owned by Diplomatic missions accredited to Liberia shall be exempt from paying vehicles registration fees. Diplomatic missions shall include embassies and other missions enjoying diplomatic status.

### **3.3 Registration Requirement for Vehicles**

1. No vehicle shall be permitted to ply any street or highway in the Republic of Liberia unless such a vehicle has been duly registered with the Ministry of Transport and issued a set of two valid uniformed license plates bearing a unique number and indicating the category under which the vehicle is registered. All vehicle license plates must have the inscription 'Republic of Liberia' in addition to any other required inscription. Trailers that are detachable from a motor vehicle are to be registered separately if the trailers are designed to carry goods.
2. All Vehicles are required to be registered at the dealership or point of purchase before being allowed to ply the streets or highways. The Ministry of Transport shall provide temporary registration documents and license plates for all such vehicles leaving a dealership or other point of purchase whose registration requirement have not been fully completed. Pre-owned vehicles shall be fully registered in the new owner's name prior to being allowed on the streets or highways.

3. Vehicle leaving the port of entry must obtain a transit plate or sticker from the Ministry of Transport for the specific purpose of transportation to the point of sale or distribution. Subsequently the registration requirement shall apply before any such vehicles can be allowed to ply the streets or highways.
4. Vehicles of any category found on the streets or highway without valid registration, or without a valid license plate properly displayed, shall be pulled over and towed by the police and the driver shall be issued an appropriate fine. There shall be no exemption to this requirement, including for vehicles that are exempt from paying registration fees.
5. The Ministry of Transport shall prescribe the processes for vehicle registration and the issuance of license plates. Vehicles registration processes shall be simplified and shall be carried out in as many diverse places in the Republic of Liberia as required for the population to have easy access to the facilities.
6. All registered vehicles shall be issued Vehicle Registration Certificates displaying the name, telephone number and address of the owner of the vehicle. The certificate shall also display the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), make, model, serial number, seating capacity, the expiration date of the vehicle registration and the name of the previous owner, if any.
7. The Ministry of Transport shall at all times maintain a register of all registered vehicles in the Republic of Liberia in a manner such that the information stored therein is accessible to the Ministry of Justice for law enforcement purposes.

### **3.4 Foreign Registered Vehicles Exempt from vehicle registration**

1. Vehicles registered in a country other than the Republic of Liberia may be allowed to enter the Republic of Liberia with the valid foreign registration documents and License plates and be allowed to ply the streets and highway provided vehicles registration is current and the

vehicle is properly insured. All such vehicles are to be registered in Liberia if their stay shall exceed thirty (30) days.

2. All foreign exempt vehicles are required to comply with all laws and rules in force in the Republic of Liberia and a lack of knowledge of the traffic rules shall not be a valid excuse.

### **3.5 Penalties for Driving with expired registration**

1. Any person driving a vehicle of any category, whose registration has expired, shall be subject to pay a fine of not less than One Hundred United States Dollars (\$100.00) or more than One Hundred and Fifty United States Dollars (\$150.00) or its Liberian dollar equivalent or have the vehicle towed away for safekeeping or both.
2. Any vehicle towed under section 3.1 above shall remain in custody until the vehicle is properly registered and all penalties have been paid.

### **3.6 Alteration or falsification of registration certificate prohibited**

1. Any person who forges a vehicles registration document or makes an alteration to a validly issued vehicle registration document shall be subject to investigation and forwarded to court. The vehicle so affected shall be towed for safe keeping until it is properly registered. Registration of a vehicle under a false or fictitious name shall be considered forgery for the purposes of this section.
2. Vehicles license plates shall not be altered, forged or wrongfully transferred to another vehicle. A person who alters or forges a vehicle license plate or transfers a license plate to a vehicle other than the one for which the plate was issued shall be liable for forgery and alteration and shall be subject to investigation and forwarded to court. The vehicle shall be towed for safe keeping.
3. A person who alters the Vehicle Identification Number or serial number of a vehicle or alters the vehicle in such a way that the vehicle information no longer

matches the information on the vehicle registration documents, without the prior authorization of the Ministry of Justice, shall be liable for forgery and wrongful alteration. Any such vehicle shall be towed for safe keeping and the owner or operator shall be investigated and forwarded to court. Where the vehicle can no longer be restored to its original form, the vehicle may be condemned and barred from further use in the Republic of Liberia.

4.A person who buys, receives, possesses, sells, or disposes of a vehicle or engine of a vehicle, knowing that an identification number of the vehicle or engine has been removed or falsified or that a false identification number has been placed or stamped on the engine or vehicle, shall be liable for forgery and wrongful alteration and shall be investigated and forwarded to court. Any person who wants to change the engine or alter the vehicle in any way shall first obtain authorization from the Ministry of Justice and notify the Ministry of Transport.

### **3.7 Failure to return License Plate**

Any license Plate issued to a vehicle of any category shall remain the property of Republic of Liberia and may be repossessed for cause. The Ministry of Transport shall specify the conditions under which vehicle license plates may be repossessed. Failure to return a license plate when demanded shall subject the owner to pay a fine of not less than One Hundred US dollars (\$100.00) and not more than One Hundred Fifty United States Dollars (\$150.00) or its Liberian dollar equivalent or serve a term not to exceed three months in jail or both.

### **3.8 Revenue stickers to be displayed on vehicles**

All registered vehicles shall display on the right side of the windshield the revenue sticker issued by the Liberia Revenue Authority as evidence that the proper registration fees have been paid as required by law. Violation of this provision shall subject the owner to pay a fine of not less than One Hundred

United States dollars (\$100.00) and not to exceed One Hundred and Fifty United States Dollars (\$150.00) or the Liberian Dollar equivalent or have the vehicle towed and parked in a safe place or both.

## **Chapter 4 OPERATIONS OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

### **4.1 Authorized Emergency Vehicles.**

1. Privileges of driver. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when engaged in official emergency activities such as law enforcement, fire or medical emergency shall exercise emergency privileges as follows, but subject to the conditions herein stated:

- (a) Stop, stand, or park irrespective of the provisions of this title;
- (b) Proceed past a steady red signal, a flashing red signal, or a stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation;
- (c) Exceed the maximum speed limits so long as the action does not endanger life or property.
- (d) Disregard regulations governing directions of movement or turning in specified directions.

### **4.2 Unauthorized Emergency Vehicle in an Emergency Situation**

An unauthorized motor vehicle used in an emergency situation must signal that is involved in an emergency activity by applying the appropriate lights, bells, sirens or exhaust whistle or other emergency equipment in order to distinguish itself from regular vehicles.

### **4.3. Motorcades to Permit Passing**

Motor vehicles which are being driven in a convoy or motorcade on any highway, street or road outside a business or residential district shall be operated with sufficient space between the succeeding vehicles or combinations of vehicles so that other vehicles not in the convoy or motorcade can pass safely. Motorcades or convoy that prevent overtaking and thereby cause traffic jams may be pulled over by the police to allow the free flow of traffic.

### **4.4 Safe Driving Required**

The foregoing provisions shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequence of his disregard for the safety of others.

#### **4.5 Obedience to police officers.**

No person shall fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of a police officer or any other authorized persons engaged in the direction of traffic. A person who violates the provisions of this section shall be subject to a fine of not more than Twenty-Five United States Dollars (\$25.00) or more than Fifty United States Dollars (\$50.00) or its Liberian Dollar equivalent or imprisonment for not more than two weeks, or both.

#### **4.6 Police Courtesy Required**

A Police Officer or any other authorized persons engaged in the direction of traffic is required to accord all due courtesy to operators, owners and pedestrians while performing his/her duty. A police officer or any other authorized person engaged in the direction of traffic shall at all times display his/her badge of identity in a visible position.

#### **4.7. SPEED RESTRICTIONS**

A. No person shall drive a vehicle at a speed greater than the posted speed limit. Where there is no posted speed limit, the speed limit shall be determined by taking into the consideration the particular areas, districts, streets, avenues, boulevards and highways.

B. The driver of every vehicle shall, consistent with the requirements of sub section A above, drive at an appropriate reduced speed when approaching and crossing an intersection or railway grade crossing, when approaching and going round a curve, when approaching a hill crest, when traveling upon a narrow or winding roadway, and when any special hazard exists with respect to pedestrians or other traffic by reason of weather or highway conditions.

C. It is an offense to exceed the posted speed limits in Subsections A and B and violators shall pay a fine of not less than Fifty United States Dollars (\$50.00) or

more than One Hundred United States Dollars (\$100.00) or its Liberian Dollar equivalent or serve a prison term of three months or both.

D. Driving at a speed significantly below the posted speed limit such that the flow of traffic is impeded is prohibited unless the reduced speed is necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

#### **4.8 Driving on the Right Side of the Road**

Vehicles are to be operated on the right side of the road at all times. Multiple lane roads designed for travel in the same direction shall be the exception. Driving on the opposing lane shall be a traffic violation punishable by a fine of not less than One Hundred Fifty United States Dollars (\$150.00) or more than Two Hundred and Fifty United States Dollars (\$250.00) or the Liberian dollar equivalent. Violators may be towed and the vehicle parked for safekeeping pending payment of the required fine.

#### **4.9. One- way traffic**

Upon a roadway designated and signposted for one- way traffic a vehicle shall be driven only in the direction designated.

#### **4.10 Divided Highway**

Whenever a highway is divided into two roadways by a physical barrier or by a clearly indicated dividing section constructed so as to impede vehicular traffic every vehicle shall be driven on the right- hand roadway only; and no vehicles shall be driven over, across, through, or within any such physical barrier or dividing section or space except at a crossover or intersection established by public authority

#### **4.11 Multiple Highway**

Whenever any highway has been divided into two or more clearly marked traffic lanes, the following rules, in addition to all others consistent herewith, shall apply:

(a) A vehicle shall, as far as practicable, be driven entirely within one lane and shall not be moved into another lane until the operator has ascertained that such movement can be made with safety.

(b) A vehicle shall not be driven in the center lane of a three- lane highway except when the driver has ascertained that the center lane is clearly visible and free of traffic and he is overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction or is preparing to make a left turn or when the center lane is allocated exclusively to traffic moving in the direction in which the vehicle is proceeding and signs have been posted to give notice of such allocation.

(c) When official traffic control devices direct slow- moving vehicles, or traffic moving in a particular direction, to use a designated lane regardless of the center of the highway, drivers of vehicles shall obey the directions of every signal or direction.

#### **4.12 Right of Way**

##### **4.12.1 Approaching or entering intersections.**

The driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection shall yield the right of way to a vehicle that has first entered the intersection from another highway. When vehicles approach or enter an intersection at approximately the same time, the driver of the vehicle on the left shall yield the right of way to the operator of the vehicle on his right.

##### **4.12.2. Turning left at intersection.**

The driver of a vehicle within an intersection who intends to turn to the left shall yield the right of way to any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction that is within the intersection or so close thereto as to constitute an immediate hazard; after properly signaling an intention to turn left, all other vehicles approaching the intersection from a greater distance shall yield the right of way.

##### **4.12.3. Intersection with through highway.**

The driver of a vehicle shall stop at the entrance to a through highway and shall yield the right of way to other vehicles that have entered the intersection or have approached so close as to constitute an immediate hazard; after having so yielded the right of way, however, the driver of the vehicle entering the highway may then proceed, and other vehicles approaching the intersection on

the through highway shall yield to the vehicle proceeding into or across the highway.

#### **4.12.4. Entering stop intersection.**

The driver of a vehicle shall stop as required in obedience to a stop sign or signal erected at the entrance to an intersection, whether or not the intersecting road is a through highway, and shall proceed into the intersection with caution, yielding the right of way to any vehicle not required to stop that is within the intersection or approaching so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard; but other vehicles at a greater distance shall thereafter yield the right of way to the stopped vehicle.

#### **4.12.5. Entering highway from private road or driveway.**

The driver of the vehicle about to enter or cross a highway from a private road or driveway shall yield the right of way to all vehicles approaching on such highway.

#### **4.12.6. Yielding to emergency vehicles.**

Upon the approach of an authorized emergency vehicle which exhibits the red light in front and emits the audible sound signal required by law, the driver of another vehicle shall immediately yield the right of way and drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to the right- hand edge or curb of the highway, clear of any intersection, and shall stop and remain in such position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed, except as otherwise directed by a police officer; provided, however, that this section shall not operate to relieve the operator of any emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due care for the safety of all persons using the highway.

### **4.13 TURNING, STARTING AND STOPPING**

#### **4.13.1 Position and method of turning at intersection.**

The driver of a vehicle intending to turn at an intersection shall do so as follows:

(a) Right turns. The approach for a right turn shall be made as close as practicable to the right- hand edge or curb of the road.

(b) Left turn on two- way roadway. At any intersection where traffic is permitted to move in both directions on each roadway entering the intersection,

an approach for a left turn shall be made in that portion of the right half of the roadway which is nearest the center thereof. The operator shall make the left turn so as to leave the intersection in that portion of the right half of the roadway which is nearest to the center of the road being entered. Whenever practicable, the left turn shall be made to the left of the center of the intersection.

(c) Left turns on other roadways. At any intersection where traffic is restricted to one direction on one or more roads, the driver of a vehicle who intends to make a left turn shall approach the intersection in the extreme left- hand lane which is lawfully available to traffic moving in such direction. Upon entering the intersection, the left turn shall be made so as to leave the intersection in the extreme left- hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the direction of the turning vehicle in the roadway being entered.

(d) Markers and signs at intersections. When markers, buttons, signs, signals, or other devices are placed within or adjacent to an intersection and thereby require and direct that a different course from that specified in this section be traveled by vehicles turning at an intersection, no driver of a vehicle shall turn a vehicle at an intersection other than as directed and required by such markers, buttons, signs, signals, or other devices

#### **4.13.2 Limitation on turns.**

No person shall turn a vehicle from a direct course or move left or right on a roadway unless and until such turn or movement can be made with safety

#### **4.13.3 Certain U- turns forbidden.**

No vehicle shall make a U- turn (i.e., turn in an arc of 180 degrees, so as to proceed back in the opposite direction from which it was traveling) upon any curve or upon the approach to or near the crest of any grade where such turning vehicle cannot be seen by the driver of a vehicle approaching from either direction.

#### **4.13..4 Signal on the Vehicle to be used as an Indicator**

The mechanic devise placed on the vehicle as a signal, shall be used by an operator to indicate the following:

- A. A vehicle turning at an intersection, into a private road or driveway
- B. To turn left or rig
- C. Required before stopping

#### **4.14. Interfering with traffic signals forbidden.**

No person shall, without official authorization, or as a result of an accident alter, deface, injure, knock down, overprint, or remove any official traffic control sign, signal, or light or interfere with any part thereof. Any such incidents shall be reported to the police.

#### **4.15. STOPPING, STANDING, AND PARKING**

##### **4.15.1. Stopping, standing, or parking outside of business or residence areas.**

A. Upon any highway outside of a business or residence district no person shall stop, park, or leave standing any vehicle, whether attended or unattended, upon the paved or main- traveled part of the highway when it is practicable to stop, park, or so leave such vehicle off such part of said highway, but in every event an unobstructed width of the highway opposite a standing vehicle shall be left for the free passage of other vehicles and a clear view of such stopped vehicles shall be available from a distance of 200 feet in each direction upon such highway.

B. Exception. This section shall not apply to the driver of any vehicle hat is disabled while on the paved or main- traveled portion of a highway in such manner and to such extent that it is impossible to avoid stopping and temporarily leaving such disabled vehicle in such position.

#### **4.16. Stopping, standing, or parking prohibited in specified places.**

##### **4.16.1. Obstructing traffic or view.**

It is unlawful for any vehicle operator to park his vehicle on a street or highway so as to block traffic or on a curve or grade or near an intersection so that the view of approaching vehicles is obstructed.

##### **4.16.2 Other places forbidden.**

Except as otherwise required to prevent the obstruction of traffic or to comply with lawful statutes, it shall be unlawful to stop, stand, or park a vehicle in any of the following places:

- (a) Within an intersection;
- (b) Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection;
- (c) On any crosswalk;
- (d) Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb or within 30 feet of the points on the curb immediately opposite the ends of a safety zone (unless the police indicate a different length by signs or marking);
- (e) Within 30 feet on the approach to any flashing beacon, stop sign, or traffic control signal located at the side of a highway;
- (f) In front of a public or private driveway;
- (g) On a sidewalk;
- (h) Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when stopping, standing, or parking that would obstruct traffic;
- (i) Between any vehicles stopped, standing, or parked at the edge or curb of a street and the center of the street;
- (j) Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant;
- (k) Within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to a fire station on the same side of the street as the station and, on the opposite side, within 75 feet of such entrance (provided such entrance is properly posted or marked);
- (l) Within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railway grade crossing;
- (m) Upon a bridge or elevated structure on a highway or within a tunnel;
- (n) Where traffic signs or markers prohibit stopping, standing, or parking;
- (o) In any traffic lane of a street inside a business or residential area (even if the vehicle is parked there for repairs)

#### **4.17 Signals to be displayed by disabled vehicles**

Whenever any motor vehicle (including a trailer of any kind) is disabled on the traveled portion of any highway outside the business or residential area of any municipality or on the shoulder thereof, the driver of such vehicle shall display the warning devices at a visible position where approaching operators will see. Warning devices should include:

- a. Fuses or lanterns
- b. Bright reflective triangles
- c. Bright reflective Cones

- d. Any other bright reflective device that shall be visible to the approaching vehicle

#### **4.18 Connections for Towing Vehicles**

When one vehicle is towing another, the drawbar or other connection shall have sufficient strength to pull all the weight towed thereby. Such drawbar or other connection shall not exceed 15 feet from one vehicle to the other; provided, however, that the restriction as to length shall not apply to the connection between two vehicles transporting poles, pipes, machinery, or other objects of structural nature which cannot readily be dismembered.

#### **4.19 White or Reflective cloth to be displayed on connection.**

When one vehicle is being towed by another by a connection consisting of a chain, rope, or cable, there shall be displayed on such connection a white or reflective flag or cloth not less than 12 inches square.

#### **4.20 Use of paths and roads by bi-tricycles and non-motorized vehicle.**

All motorcycles, Bicycles and tricycles and non-motorized vehicles whenever using a usable path or wherein the usable path is not visible shall always ride at the far right of the road. Exception shall be provided when turning into an intersection that require use of the middle lane to make such turn.

#### **4.21 Preservation of the Road**

##### **4.21.1 Special permission to move certain vehicles.**

The Minister of Transport may in his discretion issue special permits authorizing the operation of heavy-duty traction engines, tractors having movable tracks with transverse corrugations upon the periphery of such tracks or of farm tractors or other farm machinery, the operation or moving of which on such highways would otherwise be illegal.

##### **4.21.2 Depositing objects injurious to roadway, pedestrians and animal**

No person shall throw or deposit on any highway to which this title is applicable or on the shoulder thereof anything or substance of any sort such as nails, bottles, wires, refuse, garbage, vegetables matters and the like to be scattered over the road that could damage the road or injure pedestrians or animal using the road.

Any person who deposits or throws or permits to be deposited or thrown any such thing or substance on such highway or shoulder thereof shall immediately remove it or cause it to be removed.

#### **4.21.3. Preservation of life of road.**

No person shall dig up, excavate, obstruct, place any earth upon, or build a fence upon, any portion of a highway to which this title is applicable, or any public sidewalk, or cause any such act to be committed without legal authorization therefor. Each day that a violation of this section continues shall be considered a separate offense.

#### **4.21.4. Driving over closed road.**

No vehicle shall pass over any road that is closed to traffic for construction or repair. A suitable sign and barricade shall be considered sufficient notice that a road is closes.

#### **4.21.5. Penalty for violation.**

A person guilty of a violation of this subchapter shall be subject to a fine of not more than Fifty United States Dollars (\$50.00) or its Liberian dollar equivalent.

### **4.22 Miscellaneous Rules**

The following shall constitute an offense under the miscellaneous rules:

- a. When a vehicle is following another vehicle too closely
- b. When a vehicle backs up in a moving traffic unless such operation can be made with reasonable safety and without interfering with other traffic
- c. When the load in a vehicle protrudes to the extent that it obstructs both the operator and approaching driver's view
- d. When a passenger or operator opens the door on the side facing the traffic

### **4.23 Improper Operation of Motor Vehicle**

- i) A vehicle operator, for the purpose of this chapter, is liable for improper operation of a motor vehicle where the vehicle is operated consciously and knowingly in a manner that is reckless and perilous and poses a threat to the society at large.
- ii) A vehicle operator may be charged for improper operation of a vehicle if as a result of the conduct of the vehicle operator any of the following should occur:

- a) Simple bodily injury to a person or persons; where consent of owner is not met operator bear liability alone; where consent of owner is met owner and operator bear liability
- b) Aggravated bodily injury to a person or persons: where consent of owner is not met operator bear liability alone; where owner consent for owner is met owner and operator bear liability
- c) Death: where consent of owner is not met operator shall bear liability and may be charged for manslaughter as a result of reckless driving; where owner consent is met owner and operator share liability but owner may not be charged for manslaughter
- d) Property Damage: where owner consent is not met operator shall bear liability alone; where owner consent is met operator and owner may share liability.
- e) Damage to Public Infrastructures
- iii) Any person found liable for Improper Operation of a vehicle shall be liable to bear the cost of any injury, death or damage caused by the improper operation of the vehicle, in addition to any other sanctions including payment of fines, suspension of driving privilege, impoundment of the vehicle or prison term as the court shall find appropriate.

#### **4.24 Traffic Violations**

The following shall constitute traffic offenses and shall be punishable by a fine of not less than Fifty United States Dollars (\$50.00) and not to exceed One Hundred United States Dollars (\$100.00) or its Liberia Dollars equivalent or serve a prison term of three months or both:

- i) Parking in the travel lanes without authorization.
- ii) Operating a vehicle without wearing a seatbelt.
- iii) Failure to control vehicle lights
- iv) Overtaking another vehicle on a hill or in a curve or on a bridge.
- v) Parking in the curve on a two lanes road.
- vi) Failure to obey posted speed limits.
- vii) Failure to obey posted traffic signs.
- viii) Entering traffic through a turn out lane.

- ix) Overtaking in a dangerous manner or while another vehicle is approaching in the opposite lane.
- x) Driving while holding a device in one hand.
- xi) Overloading passengers in a vehicle
- xii) Overloading cargo in a vehicle
- xiii) Allowing persons to sit or hang onto the outside of a vehicle
- xiv) Attaching objects to the vehicle that interfere with the flow of traffic.
- xv) Failure to remain in lane or driving in lane not designated for the type of vehicle.
- xvi) Failure to remove broken down vehicles from travel lanes.
- xii) Failure to yield to the right of way.
- xvii) Failure to obey police directions.
- xviii) Placing obstacles or road signs on the road way without authorization

#### **4.25 Overloading Vehicles Prohibited**

It shall be an offense for any person to operate, drive, or move, or for the owner to cause or knowingly to permit to be operated, driven, or moved, any vehicle of a size or weight exceeding the limitations set forth in this chapter or otherwise in violation of the provisions of this chapter. The Minister of Transport may deny or suspend registration or refuse renewal of registration of a motor vehicle the dimensions or weight of which are in violation of this chapter

Vehicles operators must adhere to the standard capacity of the vehicle as designed by the manufacturer. The standard capacity applies to passengers and cargo. Any violation of the standard capacity shall constitute a violation.

##### **4.25.1 Exceptions to application of Overloading.**

Except as otherwise expressly provided, the provisions of this section shall not apply to fire apparatus, machines for road infrastructure, to implement husbandry, including farm tractors, temporarily moved upon a highway, or to any vehicle operated in accordance with the terms of a special permit as herein below provided.

##### **4.25.2 Maximum width allowed.**

The total outside width of any vehicle or load thereon shall not exceed eight feet.

#### **4.25.3 Maximum excess width of load on passenger vehicles.**

No passenger vehicle shall be operated on any highway carrying any load thereon which extends beyond the line of the fenders on the left side not more than six inches beyond the line of the fenders on the right side of the vehicle.

#### **4.25.4 Maximum height.**

No vehicle, including any load thereon, shall exceed the manufacturer's specification as to height.

#### **4.25.5 Maximum length of vehicle and load**

1. No vehicle, including any load thereon, shall exceed an overall length of 35 feet, inclusive of front and rear bumpers; provided, however, that a bus equipped with three axles shall not exceed an overall length of 40 feet, inclusive of front and rear bumpers.

2. No combination of vehicles coupled together shall consist of more than two units, and no such combination of vehicles, including any load thereon, shall have an overall length, inclusive of front and rear bumpers, in excess of 50 feet, except as otherwise provided in this section.

3. Extension of load beyond vehicle. Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this section, the load upon any vehicle operated alone or the load upon a front vehicle of a combination of vehicles shall not extend more than three feet beyond the foremost part of the vehicle; and the load upon a vehicle operated alone or upon the rear vehicle of a combination of vehicles shall not extend more than six feet beyond the body or bed of such vehicle

4. The limitations as to length of vehicle and loads as set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this section shall not apply to any pole trailer when transporting poles or pipes or structural material which cannot be dismembered; provided, however, that no pole or pipe or other material exceeding 80 feet in length shall be so transported unless a permit has first been obtained as provided in this chapter

5. Whenever the load on any vehicle extends four feet or more beyond the rear of the body of such vehicle, there shall be displayed at the rear end of such load a red flag or cloth not less than 12 inches square, so hung that the entire area is visible to the operator of a vehicle approaching from behind; provided, however, that at all times when lights are required, the vehicle and its load shall comply with the provision as to lights contained in the law

6. No vehicle shall be operated, driven, or moved on any highway within the application of this title unless such vehicle is so constructed and loaded as to prevent any of its loads from dripping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping therefrom; provided, however, that sand may be dropped for the purpose of securing traction, and water or other substances may be sprinkled on a roadway to clean or maintain such roadway.

7. No person shall operate, drive, or move a loaded vehicle on any highway unless the load and the cover thereon are securely fastened so as to prevent the load or covering from becoming loose, detached, or in any other manner a hazard to other users of the highway.

#### **4.26 Special permits.**

Upon a written application and for good cause shown, the Minister of Transport may, in his/her discretion, issue a special written permit authorizing the applicant to operate, drive, or move on specified public highways a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a size or weight or load exceeding the maximum specified in this chapter. If such permit is issued, the Minister may limit the number of trips or establish seasonal or other time limitations within which the vehicle described may be operated on the highways indicated or otherwise limit or prescribe conditions of operation of such vehicle whenever necessary to assure against damage to road foundations, surfaces, or structures; and the Minister of Transport may require such bond or security as he/she may deem necessary to compensate for any injury to any roadway or road structure.

##### **4.26.1 Permit to be carried**

Every permit issued in accordance with this section shall be carried in the vehicle or combination of vehicles for which it has been issued and shall be made available for inspection by any police officer or authorized agent of the Minister.

#### **4. 26.2 Compliance with permit.**

No person shall violate any of the terms or conditions of a special permit granted under the provisions of this section.

#### **4.27 Police to Control Traffic Directions**

The police shall have the authority to control traffic directions at all times and may change the posted direction or override traffic lights. Police vehicles or other emergency vehicles shall have the right of way when officially engaged. Failure to yield to a police or other emergency vehicle when officially engaged shall be a violation punishable by a fine of not less than Fifty United States Dollars (\$50.00) and not more than one hundred United States Dollars (\$100.00) or its Liberian Dollars equivalent or serve a prison term of three months or both.

#### **4.28 Pedestrians to Obey Road Traffic Rules**

A pedestrian may be punished by a fine of Fifty United States Dollars (\$50.00) or serve a prison term of three months or both for violation of posted road traffic rules or for interference with the flow of traffic or for actions that constitute endangerment to oneself or endangerment to others. Offenses under this section shall include:

- i) Jaywalking
- ii) Crossing the road outside of the cross walk
- iii) Crossing into moving traffic
- iv) Placing objects in the road way
- v) Street peddling on the road way
- vi) Covering or obstructing or removing traffic signs
- vii) Failure to obey directions from a traffic officer
- viii) Failure to use designated overhead or underground crossing

#### **4.29 Motorcycles and other Vehicles to Obey All Traffic Rules**

Motorcycles, tricycles and other motorized or non-motorized vehicles operated on the streets and highways in the Republic of Liberia, are required to obey all of the rules of traffic and the operators shall be held in violation and subjected to the same penalties and fines for the same offenses as designated herein.

#### **4.30 Restrictions on Motor Racing**

Unauthorized racing on the streets or highways in the Republic of Liberia is prohibited and shall be punishable by a fine of not less than Fifty United States Dollars (\$50.00) or more than One Hundred United States Dollars (\$100.00) or its Liberia Dollars equivalent or serve a prison term of three months or both. This prohibition applies to all categories of vehicles.

#### **4.31 Fines to be Doubled in Special Restricted Zones**

The following areas are to be considered special zones where posted speed limits and traffic rules are to be rigidly enforced. Fines for violations in these areas shall be double for similar offenses in areas not designated as special. Special zones shall include:

- a. Vicinity of hospitals
- b. Vicinity of Schools
- c. Parks
- d. Vicinity of Churches and other religious centres
- g. Clearly designated residential areas
- f Pedestrian crosswalk

#### **4.32 Operators to Obey Traffic Signs, Signals and Lights**

Vehicle operators are required to obey all traffic signs, signals and traffic lights posted by authority of the Government of Liberia for the purpose of regulating traffic. These include electrical or electronic traffic lights and signals that control vehicle and pedestrian's movements, as well as posted signs that direct the operator's actions. Failure to obey traffic signs, signals or traffic lights shall be a violation punishable by a fine of not less than Fifty United States Dollars (\$50.00) or more than One Hundred United States Dollars (\$100.00) or its Liberian Dollar equivalent or serve a prison term of three months or both.

#### **4.33 Sound Devices**

It is prohibited for a person driving a vehicle of any category to ply the street with unnecessary loud and disturbing sounds. Vehicle horns are to be deployed only when necessary. Deliberate misuse of sound devices shall be a violation punishable by a fine not less than Fifty United States Dollars (\$50.00) or more than One Hundred United States (\$100.00) or the Liberian Dollar equivalent or serve a prison term of three months or both.

#### **4.34 Prohibition on the use of sounds and light device by operator**

It is prohibited for an operator to pose as an authorized emergency vehicle using sounds and light devices for the purpose of violating traffic rules. It shall be an offense punishable by a fine of not less than Fifty United States Dollars (\$50.00) nor more than One Hundred United States (\$100.00) or the Liberian Dollar equivalent or serve a prison term of three months or both.

#### **4.35 Operators of Vehicles Required to stop, report accident and give information or documents**

In a case where a motor vehicle operator is involved in an accident resulting to death, injury or property damage, to a person or persons other than the operator of that motor vehicle, or where the accident involves another vehicle but is observed by the vehicle operator, it shall be the duty of the operator to stop and provide assistance to the fullest of his/her ability and to promptly report the incident to the Police. The operator shall be required to provide all relevant information or documentation to the police including photographs taken at the scene. Driving away from an accident scene without stopping to provide assistance or calling the relevant emergency authorities shall be considered a violation.

All accident reports made by persons involved in accidents or by garage or repair shop owners or managers shall be without prejudice to the person making the report. Such reports shall be for the confidential use of the Minister of Justice in prosecuting offenses and for statistical purposes. The Minister of Justice may, however, disclose the identity of any person who has made an accident report and cause such person to testify in a criminal prosecution if the operator or owner of the vehicle denies that it was involved in such accident or has failed to make any accident report required under the provisions of this section.

Where a person to whom injury has been caused so requests, or if the person is unconscious or if the injury caused to that person appears to endanger life, the operator must attend to the injured person and if necessary, cause the person to be removed to a proper medical facility and inform the police thereafter.

#### **4.36 Unauthorized Personnel May Not Remove Accident Vehicle**

No person shall remove any vehicle involved in an accident in which another person is killed or injured from the position in which it came to rest, until such removal has been authorized by a police officer or other duly authorized personnel.

Theft from or interference with a vehicle involved in an accident shall constitute a crime punishable under the penal code. In any prosecution for a contravention of any provision of this section it shall be presumed, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that the accused was aware of the fact that the accident had occurred, and that he or she did not report the accident or furnish the information as required.

#### **4.37 Vehicle Repair Garages to Report Vehicles Involved in Accidents**

All road traffic accidents must be reported to the Police. The Police has to be called to the scene of road traffic accident except and unless there is no injury and the property damage is minimal and waived by the parties involved. Failure to report a road traffic accident shall be an offense. Repair garages are required to report all vehicles that are presented for repair regardless of whether the vehicles are presented to the garage by the police and regardless of the vehicle having been already reported to the garage by another person.

Any person in charge of a garage or other place where motor vehicles are repaired, and to which any motor vehicle showing signs or marks of having been involved in an accident is brought, for the purpose of the repair of such signs or marks, shall, as soon as possible before the repair is commenced with, keep a record specifying:

- a. the nature of such signs or marks, the engine number, chassis number
- b. and the registration or similar mark and number, and if known, the name and address of the owner and driver, of such vehicle.

(2) A person required to keep a record shall

a) retain such record for a period of three (3) years from the date on which it was made, and any such record shall, on request, be produced to the Minister of Justice.

#### **4.38 Accident Statistics.**

The Ministry of Justice shall publish quarterly statistics on the number of traffic accidents and traffic fatalities.

#### **4.39 Parking Spaces and Stations**

Vehicles shall be parked in clearly marked parking garages or spaces on the street. Parking in unmarked areas shall be prohibited. Violators shall be fined Twenty-Five United States Dollars (\$25.00) or the Liberia Dollar equivalent.

## **CHAPTER 5 SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR VEHICLES**

### **5.1 Manufacturer Required Safety features for Vehicles**

All motor vehicles operating in the Republic of Liberia are required to be equipped with standard safety equipment for the protection of the general public. Standard safety equipment includes the following:

- i) A properly installed braking system to stop the movement of the vehicle when required.
- ii) A properly installed steering system for control of the vehicle movement.
- iii) Properly functioning lights at the front and rear of the vehicle for driving at night and in conditions of low visibility.
- iv) Properly functioning brakes lights
- v) Properly functioning reverse lights
- vi) Properly functioning signal lights
- vii) Properly functioning emergency lights
- viii) Tyres that are not worn out and are properly inflated, with all tire bolts thereon
- ix) Reflective triangular signs
- x) Fire extinguishers

- xi) Functional revolving lights for trucks

## **5.2 Seatbelts Required in all Vehicles**

It shall be a violation to operate a vehicle without properly installed and functioning seatbelts. The vehicle operator and passengers are required to wear seatbelts at all times while the vehicle is in motion. Failure to have properly functioning seatbelts in a vehicle and failure to wear seatbelts while the vehicle is in motion shall both be punishable by a fine of not less than Twenty-Five United States (\$25.00) or more than Fifty United States Dollars (\$50.00) or the Liberian Dollars equivalent or prison term of three months or both.

## **5.3 Car Seat Required for Infants and Toddlers**

All infants and toddlers as defined in the definition of terms must be seated in a car seat designed for the transportation of infants and toddlers at all times when the infant or toddler is being carried in a moving vehicle. It shall be a violation to transport an infant or toddler without placing the infant or toddler in a car seat. Car seats for infants must be rear facing for the protection of the child. Violation of the seatbelt requirement shall be punishable by a fine of not less than One Hundred United States Dollars (\$100.00) or more than One Hundred and Fifty United States Dollars (\$150.00) or its Liberia Dollar equivalent or prison term of three months or both.

5.3.2 Pregnant women shall be prohibited from sitting in the front seat of a commercial vehicle. Violators shall be fined Fifty United States Dollars (\$50.00) or its Liberian Dollar equivalent.

## **5.4 Lamps and Lighting Equipment**

It is prohibited for the operator of a vehicle of any category to apply the vehicle's high beam lights onto opposing traffic thereby reducing visibility for the operator in the opposite lane as this poses a high risk of road traffic accident. Violators shall be punished by fine of not less than Twenty-Five United States Dollars (\$25.00) or more than Fifty United States Dollars (\$50.00) or its Liberia Dollar equivalent or prison term of one month or both.

## **5.5 Windows and Windshields**

1. All vehicle carrying passengers must have windows for ventilation. Operator of a vehicle carrying passengers without windows will be towed and parked to a safe place and prohibited from plying the streets. Commercial vehicles are prohibited from tinting their windows.

2. Windshields on vehicles must be clear at all times. Operating a vehicle with multiple cracks and/or broken windshield that impedes the operator's view shall be prohibited. Official stickers that are applied to the windshields must be applied to upper right corner of the windshield to avoid impeding the operator's view of the road. It is prohibited to place any covering or tint on the windshield of a vehicle plying the streets.

### **5.6.1 Noise and Emission Control**

1. It is prohibited for a motor vehicle level to exceed the prescribed limits set by the Environment Protection law. Vehicles with emissions above the allowable level shall be in violation and shall be towed for safekeeping until the vehicle is properly repaired.

2. It is prohibited for a vehicle to emit unusually loud engine or other sounds such that it poses a hazard to other operators, pedestrians and residents within a given vicinity. Any such vehicle will be towed and parked to a safe place and not allowed back on the road until properly repaired.

## **5.7 Inappropriate Vehicle Accessories Prohibited**

It is prohibited to knowingly alter the original accessories of a vehicle in such a way that it poses danger to the public. Trailers attached to other vehicles must maintain their original specifications. Brakes, steering wheels and tyres, and vehicle fenders are not to be altered.

## **5.8 Fitting and supply of defective vehicle parts**

A person who wilfully causes or permits a motor vehicle part to be fitted to a motor vehicle, in such circumstances that the use of the motor vehicle on a road would, by reason of that part being fitted to the motor vehicle, pose a public safety risk of injury to any person or damage to property or constitute a contravention of, or failure to comply with, any of the construction and use requirements, commits an offense and is liable to pay a fine not less than One

Hundred United States Dollars (\$100.00) or more than One Hundred Fifty United States (\$150.00) or its Liberian dollar equivalent or serve a prison term of six months or both.

The sale of defective or counterfeit motor vehicle parts shall be prohibited.

A person who sells, or offers or exposes for sale, any appliance adapted for use as a reflector or tail lamp to be carried on a motor vehicle in accordance with this Act or of any Regulations made under it, not being an appliance that complies with the construction and use requirements applicable to the class of motor vehicles trailer or motorcycle for which the appliance is adapted, commits an offense.

A person who sells or supplies, offers to sell or supply or exposes for sale or supply, a vehicle part in contravention of any prohibition imposed by Regulations made under this Act commits an offense and shall be liable to pay a fine of not less than One Hundred United States Dollars (\$100.00) or more than One Hundred Fifty United States Dollars (\$150.00) or its Liberian Dollars equivalent or serve a prison term of six months or both, unless the person proves otherwise:

(a) that it was sold, supplied or offered for export, or

(b) that the person had reasonable cause to believe that it would not be used on the road, or would not be so used until it had been put into a condition in which it might lawfully be so used.

## **5.9 Wearing of Protective Crash Helmet Compulsory**

1. All motorcycle operators and their passengers or bicycle operators and their passengers are required to wear protective helmets when the motorcycle or bicycle is being operated. Violators shall be subject to pay a fine of not less than Fifty United States Dollars (\$50.00) or more than One Hundred United States Dollars (\$100.00) or the Liberian Dollars equivalent or serve a prison term of three months or both.
2. A protective “*crash helmet*” for the purpose of this section is helmet that is so design to withstand grave impact applied on it in an event of collision or accident. Sale of substandard crash helmets shall be prohibited and shall be punishable by a fine of not less than Two Hundred United States Dollars (\$200.00) or its Liberian Dollars equivalent and the crash helmet shall be confiscated.

3. The Ministry of Transport shall set regulations on the types of crash helmets acceptable for the operation of motorcycles.
4. It is prohibited for infants, toddlers, children below ten (10) years of age or pregnant women to ride as operator or passenger on a motorcycle.
5. It is prohibited for children below 14 years of age to operate a motorcycle. They may however be passengers on a motorcycle.
6. The operator of a motorcycle found in violation of counts 4 and 5 of this section has committed an offense punishable by a fine of not less than One Hundred United States Dollars (\$100.00) or more than One Hundred and Fifty United States Dollars (\$150.00) or its Liberian Dollar equivalent or serve a prison term of six months or both.

## **CHAPTER 6. DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED**

### **6.1 OPERATORS RESTRICTION ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE**

A person who operates a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, to a degree such that the operator is incapable of having proper control of the vehicle and thereby poses a threat to the safety of the operator or the public, or a threat of damage to public or private property, whether such a threat is realized or not, commits an offense punishable by a fine of not less than One Hundred United States (\$100.00) or a prison term of up to six months or both. The percentage of alcohol or drugs in an operator's body shall be determined by medical examination conducted after the police officer has reason to believe that the operator's driving is impaired. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs resulting in an accident that causes death or bodily injury or property damage shall be grounds for the arrest of the perpetrator and suspension of his/her driving privileges. The operator License could be revoked permanently after the third such offense.

#### **6.1.1. Blood Alcohol Level Limitation**

A person found driving a motor vehicle or attempting to drive a motor vehicle, shall be considered under the influence of alcohol where the person's blood alcohol level is 0.08 percent or more after medical examination or examination with a competent medical device. Any such examination must be conducted immediately following the vehicle being pulled over.

### **6.1.2 Court to Hand Down More Severe Sentence for Drunk Driving**

The Court may, upon conviction of any person under this section for driving under the influence of alcohol and or drugs, order the payment of such compensation as the Court may consider for the death of a victim to that person's estate or to a person for injury or property damage as the case may be.

In the case of death, the court may render a judgement for higher criminal charges given the facts and circumstances surrounding the accident.

### **6.1.3 Police to Make Arrest of Suspected Drunk Driver**

1. A police officer may effect an arrest where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a person driving or attempting to drive is under the influence of alcohol or drugs and has committed a traffic offense while the motor vehicle was in motion, or may pose danger to the public if allowed to drive.
2. A police officer may order that a driver submits to a field sobriety test if the officer suspects that the driver is under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Where the driver refuses to submit to a field sobriety test, the police may effect an arrest in the interest of public safety.
3. Where, as a result of the field sobriety test, the police officer has reasonable cause to suspect that the percentage of alcohol in that person's body exceeds the prescribed limit; or where that person has failed to submit to examination when required to do so shall effect an arrest and cause the driver to be detained and charged and forwarded to court for prosecution.

### **6.1.4 Police to Require Sobriety Test When Accident Has Occurred**

A police officer may conduct a field sobriety test on a driver involved in a road traffic accident where the police officer has reason to suspect that the circumstances of the accident show evidence of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Refusal to submit to the field sobriety test may result in an arrest and prosecution.

## **Chapter 7 Transportation of Hazardous Materials**

1. Hazardous materials shall be defined as materials whose transportation poses a risk to the health and safety of the general population. Such materials may include chemical or biological materials, nuclear waste, explosives or inflammable matters, or other substances of a similar nature and to include any and all such materials as contained in the Environmental Protection Law.
2. No driver or owner of a vehicle shall be allowed to carry by road any material considered hazardous except by permission of the Ministry of Justice and in accordance with regulations issued by the Environmental Protection Agency.
3. The Environmental Protection Agency shall have the authority to make regulations controlling the transport of hazardous materials. The regulations shall guide the types of vehicles used, the markings required on the vehicles, requirement for police escort where required and proper notice to the public or person who may be in danger. In all such cases, proper attention shall be paid to the environment.
4. Transportation of hazardous materials in vehicles occupied by passengers is prohibited. Owners or drivers of commercial vehicles are required to refuse any offer to transport hazardous materials. Failure to disclose the transportation of hazardous materials to passengers in a vehicle shall be a violation and shall be punishable by a fine of not less than Two Hundred United States Dollars (\$200.00) and not more than Three Hundred United States Dollars (\$300.00) or the Liberian Dollar equivalent or a prison term of not more than one year or both.
5. Hazardous material being improperly or wrongfully transported may be seized by the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Justice and Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) shall dispose of all such material in the safest way possible. The material shall not be returned to the owner. There shall be a thirty (30) days wait period before the disposal of seized hazardous material to allow for legal challenges.

## **Chapter 8 ROADWORTHINESS REQUIREMENT FOR VEHICLES**

### **8.1 Motor Vehicles to Undergo Periodic Road Worthiness Inspections**

All registered vehicles in the Republic of Liberia shall be required to undergo periodic test of the road worthiness of the vehicle in order to ensure that all operating and safety standards are complied with. Failure to undergo road worthiness inspection when required shall be a violation under this act.

### **8.2 Ministry of Justice to Conduct Road Worthiness Inspections**

Road worthiness inspections shall be conducted by the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Justice shall at any given time request an operator to produce his/her road worthiness certificate for inspection. Any operator that will not produce a road worthiness certificate during the Ministry of Justice inspections shall be liable to pay a fine of not less than One Hundred United States Dollars (\$100.00) and not more than One Hundred and Fifty United States Dollars (\$150.00) or its Liberian Dollars equivalent or serve a prison term of three months or both. The vehicle may be towed for safe keeping until satisfactory completion of road worthiness inspection and the issuance of the proper certificate.

### **8.3 Ministry of Transport to Issue Regulations and Certificates**

The Ministry of Transport shall have the following authority under this act:

- (a) To set regulations for the Examination of vehicles and develop the scope of work for the conduct of the examination. The Ministry may contract a private party to conduct the examination for a fee to be paid by the vehicle owner.
- (b) To issue certificates for vehicles that have been examined and have been proven satisfactory. Each certificate shall have a two years' validity.

(c) To conduct road worthiness examination of all vehicles at least once every two years.

(d) To require that vehicle examiners maintain a register of vehicles examined and to cause the registry to be shared with the Ministry of Justice for inspection purpose. The records may be periodically inspected by the Ministry of Justice.

#### **8.4 Certificate and Sticker to Always Be Available for Inspection**

Vehicles are required to provide proof of satisfactory completion of road worthiness examination upon demand by the authorities. Vehicle examination stickers must be displayed in the upper right corner of the windshield at all times in a manner that is easy to inspect.

#### **8.5 Exemption from Road Worthiness test and certificate**

The following shall not be subjected to a roadworthiness examination and or test and shall not be required to obtain a road worthiness certificate as a pre-condition for the use of the road or highway:

- 1) Vehicle carrying the President, Vice President, Speaker of the House of Representative, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.
- 2) Vehicles that are used by embassies and other diplomatic missions.
- 3) Vehicles used by the Armed Forces of Liberia, the Liberia National Police, Authorized Emergency vehicles, and other state security agencies.
- 4) And Vehicles specifically exempted by a written instrument issued by the Minister of Transport

#### **8.6 Spot Road Worthiness Tests for Vehicles**

A police officer may require a spot test of a vehicle that has been observed to lack road worthiness. The spot test shall take place in the field by a preliminary inspection and if need be the vehicle may be required to undergo examination at a designated vehicle examiner. The vehicle owner shall pay the fees for the spot

test and any subsequent tests. Holding a valid examination certificate shall not be a bar for spot tests.

### **8.7 Obstruction of Spot Test Prohibited**

A person who obstructs and or hinders a police officer acting under the authority in this section, or fails to comply with a requirement under this section commits an offense and is liable to pay a fine of not less than Twenty-Five (\$25.00) Dollars and not more than Fifty United States Dollars (\$50.00) or the Liberian Dollars equivalent or serve a term of one month in prison or both.

### **8.8 Unfit motor vehicles not permitted on the road**

Where a vehicle has failed a road worthiness inspection, the vehicle shall lose its authorization to operate on the streets and highways of the Republic of Liberia. The authorization shall not be restored until an authorized examiner has determined without prejudice that the vehicle does has met the roadworthiness standards established by the Minister of Transport. Unfit vehicles may be towed and parked for safe keeping.

A decision for towing and safe keeping of a vehicle under this section shall be issued in writing by a police officer. There shall be a fourteen- days (14) grace period issued for the correction of all observed defects on the vehicle prior to the decision to tow for safe keeping.

A written decision to tow shall contain the following information:

- (a) A clear and detailed description of the defects which occasioned the decision to be towed for safe keeping,
- (b) the notice of the grace period, and
- (c) the requirement for an examination after the defects have been corrected.

### **8.9 Exemption to Inspection or Re-inspection**

Vehicles that are less than two years old may be exempt from inspection or re-inspection in the discretion of the police officer. .

### **8.10 Vehicle Examiners and Testing Centres**

The Ministry of Transport may obtain and maintain official vehicle examination centres in designated parts of the Republic of Liberia or may contract with private testing centres for the conduct of vehicle road worthiness examination. The criteria for private testing centres shall be contained in a regulation that may from time to time be updated or revised.

### **8.11 Vehicles to comply with Axle Load Law and Regulations**

All registered vehicles in the Republic of Liberia are required to comply with the Axle Load Law of 2015 as amended and with the Axle Load Regulations promulgated by the Ministry of Transport as made be revised from time to time.

## **CHAPTER 9 COMPULSORY LIABILITY INSURANCE**

### **9.1 Proof of Insurance Required for all Vehicles**

1. Proof of insurance shall be required for all vehicles seeking to be registered in the Republic of Liberia, in keeping with the Compulsory Third Party Insurance Law of 1972 as amended. Authorized insurance carriers shall apply the benefits of the insurance coverage to parties who suffer injury or damage as a result of the conduct of the insured vehicle that has been adjudged liable for such death, injury and or property damage.
2. The owner of a Vehicle shall be required to maintain the minimum insurance coverage on the vehicle at all times that the vehicle is registered and authorized to operate in the Republic of Liberia. This requirement includes exempt vehicles. Proof of insurance shall be displayed on the

windshield of the vehicle for inspection purposes. There shall be no exception to this requirement.

3. Vehicle operators are required to provide written proof of insurance coverage when requested by the police. Failure to maintain the minimum insurance coverage shall be punishable by a fine of not less than Fifty (\$50.00) United States Dollars and not more than One Hundred United States Dollars (\$100.00) or the Liberian Dollars equivalent. Proof of insurance coverage shall be required for vehicles registered outside of Liberia that are operated in Liberia, and shall be required at the point of entry of vehicles into the Republic of Liberia.

Such vehicles shall be subject to the same penalties as vehicles registered in Liberia, for failure to maintain valid insurance coverage. The Police shall give prior notice for the inspection of exempt vehicles.

4. The Minister of Transport, subject to such reasonable regulations as it may establish, shall permit another form of proof of financial security acceptable under this chapter to be substituted for insurance as the circumstances warrant.

## **9.2 Notice of termination of insurance contract.**

1. Insurance coverage providers shall provide a written notice to the Ministry of Transport of all vehicles whose insurance coverage has expired.
2. No contract of insurance or renewal thereof shall be terminated by cancellation by the insurer for failure to renew until at least twenty (20) days after serving a notice of termination on the named insured in the manner below stated, except where the cancellation is for nonpayment of premium, in which case ten (10) days' notice of cancellation by the insurer shall be sufficient.
3. The insurer shall cause notice of termination to be served either personally on the insured or by electronic or certified mail to the last known residence of the insured.

### **9.3 Minister to Act when Insurance coverage lapses**

1. The Minister of Transport upon receipt of evidence of a lapse in insurance coverage for any motor vehicle registered in Liberia may suspend the registration, if any, of the vehicle and the license, if any, of such owner until proof of valid insurance is provided as required by this chapter.
2. The Minister of Transport upon receipt of evidence that a person other than the owner has operated a motor vehicle registered in Liberia or an unregistered motor vehicle, with knowledge that proof of insurance was not in effect with respect to such vehicle, shall suspend the license to operate motor vehicles of such person, or in the case of a nonresident person may suspend the driving privileges of such person until proof of Insurance is provided.
3. The Ministry of Transport shall have the authority to issue regulation on the minimum claims an insurer can pay in the event of death, injury, and property damage as a result of an accident.
4. When a vehicle that is insured is being sold to another person, the new owner shall not inherit the existing insurance title of that vehicle although the insurance is still valid. Insurance title shall not be transferrable.

## **CHAPTER 10. AUTHORITY OF POLICE TO REGULATE TRAFFIC**

### **10.1 Police Authority Over Traffic**

The Police shall have the authority to regulate all vehicular road traffic in the Republic of Liberia. This authority shall extend to vehicles defined in Chapter Three of this Act, as well as handcarts using the roads and pedestrians using the roads.

Trains and other forms of locomotives that travel on tracks shall be subject to police inspection and accident investigations. The Ministry of Transport shall issue regulations for the conduct of vehicles that use tracks.

## **10.2 Police May Effect Arrest of Drivers for Cause**

The Police may arrest or impose a fine on a road user for any of the following violations:

- (1) Failure to obey traffic rules (US\$50 minimum and US\$50.00 Maximum or six months in prison or both)
- (2) Failure to obey posted traffic signs (US\$50 minimum and US\$100.00 Maximum or six months in prison or both.)
- (3) Driving while impaired is an offense (US\$50 minimum and US\$100.00 Maximum or six months in prison or both)
- (4) Failure to obey the directions of a police officer (US\$25 minimum and US\$50.00 Maximum or six months in prison or both)
- (5) Driving a defective vehicle (US\$100 minimum and US\$150.00 Maximum or three months in prison or both)
- (6) Driving a vehicle with expired registration (US\$100 minimum and US\$150.00 Maximum or six months in prison or both)
- (7) Driving without a valid license (US\$100 minimum and US\$150.00 Maximum or six months in prison or both)
- (8) Driving without valid third party insurance coverage (US\$50 minimum and US\$100.00 Maximum or six months in prison or both)

10.2.2 All fines may be paid in its Liberian Dollars equivalent,

## **10.3 Drivers to Submit Documentation to Police When Requested**

A police officer may stop a vehicle for inspection and request that the operator of the vehicle produce documentation to establish the right of the vehicle and operator to operate on the public streets and highways in the Republic of Liberia. Documents to be requested shall include the driver's license, vehicle registration papers, proof of insurance, and proof of road worthiness certification. A vehicle may be stopped for inspection for probable cause.

Failure to produce the documents or driving without the documents shall be an offense punishable by a fine of not less than One Hundred United States Dollars (\$100.00) and not more than One Hundred Fifty United States Dollars (\$150.00) or the Liberia Dollar equivalent or a prison term of three months or both.

#### **10.4. Police Officer Power to Arrest for Reckless Driving**

A police officer may arrest without warrant the operator of any motor vehicle as defined in Chapter Three, subject to the limitation thereof who within the police officer's view commits an offence under this Act.

#### **10.5 Police May Seize Documents for Prior Offense**

Where a police officer has reasonable cause to believe that a document produced by a vehicle operator is a document in relation to which an offense has been committed under this Act, the police officer may seize the document. Where a document is seized under this subsection the person from whom it was seized may be required to show cause why he/she is not related to the previous offense and may be charged for that previous offense.

#### **10.6 Impersonation of Police Traffic Officer Prohibited**

A person who falsely represents himself to be a police officer or carries out functions reserved herein for police officers has committed an offense and is liable to pay a fine of not less than Two Hundred United States Dollars (\$200.00) and not more than Three Hundred United States Dollars (\$300.00) or serve a prison term of not more than one year or both.

### **CHAPTER 11 AUTHORITY OF POLICE OFFICER TO IMPOSE FINES**

#### **11.1 Police to Issue Tickets for Payment of Fines**

- 1 A police officer assigned to monitor traffic movement may impose a fine on a person who commits an offense provided for under this Act through the issuance of tickets. Fines are to be paid into the designated revenue account of the Republic of Liberia. Excessive fines shall not be imposed and violators shall have the right to challenge the fines in the Traffic Court.
- 2 The Liberia Revenue Authority shall design and print traffic tickets that shall be issued by the police in imposing fines. The Ministry of Transport and the Liberia Revenue Authority shall each keep a record of all ticket books issued to the police and shall receive copies of tickets issued.
- 3 There shall be printed on each ticket a unique serial number which shall not be printed on any other ticket. The serial numbers shall run in consecutive order. Each ticket shall be printed in quadruplicate. One copy shall be for the police record, one copy for the Liberia Revenue Authority, one copy for the Ministry of Transport and one copy for person to whom the ticket is issued. The Liberia Revenue Authority shall prepare and circulate at least four times a year a report of the performance of tickets issued.

## **CHAPTER 12                      TRAFFIC COURT AUTHORITY AND CIVIL LIABILITY FOR ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS**

### **12.1    Traffic Court May Amend or void Police Fines**

Fines imposed by the police under this Act shall be appealable to the Traffic Court having jurisdiction over the area where the offense occurred. The Traffic Court may make a determination to affirm the fine, void the fine, reduce the fine or increase the fine as the case may be.

### **12.2 Traffic Courts May Confine Violators**

The Traffic Court may confine a violator to prison for Road Traffic Violations that result in death or bodily injury as a result of improper operation of a vehicle or operation of a vehicle while impaired.

### **12.3    Traffic Court Ruling Evidence of Civil Liability**

A ruling from a Traffic Court adjudging a party liable in a road traffic accident may be used as evidence of liability in a court of law. A party making such a claim has to establish that the result of a police investigation was affirmed by the traffic court following due process.

#### **12.4 Pedestrians may be Held Liable for Road Traffic Offenses**

Where the traffic court makes a determination that a road traffic offense has occurred because of the action of a pedestrian or jaywalker or street peddler or other persons who interfere with the traffic or the conduct of a vehicle, the traffic court may hold such individuals liable for the occurrence of the incident as if the person was an operator of a vehicle.

### **CHAPTER 13 REGULATION OF ELECTRIC AND SELF DRIVING VEHICLES**

#### **13.1 Self- Driven Vehicles and Vehicles Without Internal Combustion Engine Governed by Act**

Vehicles without internal combustion engines that are propelled by batteries or by electricity or otherwise in whole or in part shall nonetheless be subject to all of the requirements of this Act. Amphibious vehicles that travel on land and in other manners shall be subject to the requirements of this Act. Self-propelled vehicles that move without human operators shall be subject to the requirements of this Act. The Ministry of Transport shall issue regulation

#### **13.2 Transport Ministry to Promulgate Regulations for Non Internal Combustion Engine Vehicles, Hybrids and Self-Driven Vehicles**

The Ministry of Transport shall have the authority to promulgate rules to govern the manufacture, sale and operations of all non- internal combustion engine

vehicles, hybrids and self-driven vehicles that operate in the Republic of Liberia. The regulations shall be revised from time to time as necessary.

## **Chapter 14 GENERAL PROVISIONS ON REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION OF VEHICLE REGISTRATION**

### **14.1 Vehicles Involved in Accident**

1. The operator of any vehicle involved in an accident with another vehicle resulting in damage to real or personal property shall take all reasonable steps to locate and notify the owner thereof, informing him of the circumstances of the accident and providing his/her name, address, operator's license number and vehicle registration number. If the vehicle has struck and injured any domestic animal, the operator shall endeavor to locate its owner or custodian or a police officer of the vicinity and take any other reasonable and appropriate action so that the animal may have necessary attention. Operators driving an uninsured, unregistered vehicle and driving without license or license that are not in conformity with the law will be barred from driving within Liberia for a period of not less than one year.

3.If a foreign registered motor vehicle is involved in an accident in Liberia and the privilege of its operation within Liberia has been revoked or expired, then neither its owner nor any person legally responsible for its use, nor its operator shall exercise the privilege of the operation of such vehicle within Liberia or the privilege of operation within Liberia of any motor vehicle until one year has passed since the date of suspension and the Minister of Transport has received the evidence required.

## **14.2 Evidence Required After Motor Vehicle Involved in Accident as Prerequisite for Restoring Privileges.**

Driving privilege that has been suspended or revoked may be restored if the Minister of Transport is satisfied:

(a) That no cause of action based upon such accident against such owner, person legally responsible, or operator has been commenced within a period of one year from the date of the accident or a release thereof has been given to such owner, person, or operator, or

(b) That no judgment arising out of such cause of action for amounts within the limits stated in or fixed by the Minister against such owner, person, or operator remains unsatisfied, except that such registration and licensing privileges may be restored in compliance with the procedures for payment of a judgment as provided in the Civil Procedure Law.

## **14.3 The Effect of Bankruptcy On Vehicle Operation**

Where a vehicle operator or owner involved in accident has been declared bankrupt, such bankruptcy shall not relieve a person from the penalties and disabilities provided in this chapter.

## **14.4 Impoundment of motor vehicle after accident.**

### **14.4.1 Impoundment by order of court.**

If the owner or operator of a motor vehicle involved in an accident resulting in death or bodily injuries or property damage to any other person has not produced satisfactory evidence as proof of insurance within 48 hours after the accident, the motor vehicle shall be subject to impoundment by the police upon an order of impoundment issued by the traffic court. If, however, a police officer at the scene of the accident has reasonable cause to believe that any motor vehicle involved in the accident may not be readily located if allowed to leave the scene, and proof of insurance has not been produced with regard to such vehicle, may cause such vehicle to be impounded pending a traffic court order of impoundment.

Upon production of proof of insurance, the vehicle may be released to the owner. Impoundment shall be at the expense of the owner. So long as the impoundment is in force no person shall remove the impounded vehicle or

permit it to be removed from its place of impoundment except upon order of the Traffic Court.

#### **14.4 2. Impoundment in Inaccessible Area**

A motor vehicle involved in an accident in an inaccessible area resulting in death or bodily injuries or property damage to a person or persons other than the owner shall be towed away to a safe place. The storage shall constitute impoundment within the meaning of this section. The cost of storage of any such impounded motor vehicle shall be borne by the owner of the vehicle. Immediately upon towing to a safe place, the following action should be taken:

(a) Notification of the nearest Police Station of the accident and of the towed motor vehicle location.

(b) Notification to the local government authorities of the incident;

#### **14.4 3. Duration of Impoundment**

Impoundment shall continue until there is a final disposition of the claim for death or bodily injury or property damage resulting from the accident in which such motor vehicle was involved, by payment of a judgment or settlement by the owner, or by a final judgment in his favor, or

(b) one year has elapsed since the date of the accident and no action has been commenced to recover for the injuries caused thereby, or

(c) a release of the motor vehicle upon order of the Traffic Court- the Judge of the Traffic Court may order the release of such vehicle upon depositing with him a security or a bond in such form and amount as may be approved by the Traffic Court. If such motor vehicle is not released from impoundment after the lapse of one year, the Judge may dispose of it by public sale and hold the proceeds from the sale pending the final disposition of the claim.

#### **14.4.4 Repairs to impounded vehicle**

The owner of an impounded vehicle may cause repair work to be done on the vehicle during the impoundment period with the permission of the Judge of the Traffic Court. In any such case the motor vehicle shall be removed to a repair shop or garage selected by the owner for the purpose of having it repaired at the owner's expense. Upon completion of such repairs, the motor vehicle shall be impounded as provided in this section.

#### **14.4.5. Release of damaged vehicle**

If the Judge of the Traffic Court is satisfied by sufficient evidence that a motor vehicle is so damaged that it cannot be restored to operable condition, the Judge may, in his/her discretion, upon such conditions as he/she deems proper, consent to the release of such motor vehicle from impoundment.

#### **14.4.6 Rights of Prior Lienors**

Nothing herein contained shall affect the rights or remedies of any person holding a prior valid lien on an impounded vehicle, including the right to the possession, or the right of the Bailee to a lien for storage of the impounded vehicle; provided, that such person shall, after the sale of such vehicle for the satisfaction of any liens thereon, remit to the Minister of Justice as deposits of security under this chapter on behalf of the former owner or purchaser of such vehicle any sums which such owner or purchaser would otherwise be entitled to receive.

#### **14.4.7 Civil Penalty for Violation.**

Any person who willfully violates any of the provisions of this section shall, in addition to any other penalty provided by law, be liable for a civil penalty.

### **Chapter 15 COMMERCIAL VEHICLES**

#### **15.1 Commercial Vehicles to Have Identification Features**

All motor vehicles that are used in the transportation of goods and passengers for hire must bear markings that clearly identified the vehicle as a commercial vehicle. Identification must be placed on a visible part of the vehicle and must include the following;

- a) A registered service name
- b) The vehicle weight
- c) The passenger capacity
- d) The goods carrying capacity
- e) Commercial plates
- f) License plate numbers printed on the two front doors

## **15.2 Commercial Vehicles Must Obey posted Limits**

Commercial vehicles are prohibited from exceeding their posted carrying limits. Violators shall be fined not less than Twenty-Five United States Dollars (\$25.00) and not more than Fifty United States Dollars (\$50.00) or its Liberian Dollars equivalent or face a prison term not to exceed two weeks or both.

## **15.3 Regulation of Commercial Taxis**

- a) All Taxis must be painted yellow for identification purposes
- b) Taxis must bear a cab at the top with the inscription 'Taxi'.
- c) Taxis must have posted identification of the license plate number and the vehicle operator name and telephone number within the vehicle.

## **15.4 Commercial Buses**

1. Commercial buses shall be in two categories: buses that carry passengers within an urban area and buses used in inter-county transportation.
2. Commercial buses must be manufactured for the specific purpose. It is prohibited to convert another vehicle into a commercial bus.

3. Commercial buses operating within an urban area may stop to pick up and drop off passengers only in designated areas.
4. Priority for boarding and disembarking from commercial buses shall be given to the elderly, disabled, pregnant women and children below ten years of age with adult escorts.

### **15.5 Heavy Duty Vehicles and Trailers**

1. Heavy duty commercial vehicles used in the transport of goods shall bear identification markings indicating the business name, weight class, load carrying capacity and a unique identification number issued by the Ministry of Transport.
2. Heavy duty vehicles used as earth moving equipment or in the construction of structures must bear unique identification numbers issued by the Ministry of Transport and may not be operated on the public roads.
3. Trailers that are attached to heavy duty tractors or pickup trucks must be registered as separate vehicles and must bear unique identification numbers issued by the Ministry of Transport.

### **15.6 Commercial Motorcycle**

1. Commercial motorcycle licence plate number must be printed on both sides of the fuel tank.
2. Operators shall be clearly identified by wearing a reflective vest that has a code visibly printed on the vest.
3. Operators shall wear well fitted footwear that cover the entire toes and heels
4. Motorcycles shall ride on the far right of the road at all times except when making a left turn where the motorcycle has to use the middle lane.
5. Operators shall carry not more than two passengers
6. All motorcycle must have their headlights turned on at all times after dark.

### **15.7 Commercial Tricycles**

1. Commercial tricycles must bear license plates and must also place the license plate numbers on both doors.

2. Operators shall be clearly identified by wearing a reflective vest that has a code visibly printed on the vest.
3. Operators shall wear well fitted footwear that cover the entire toes and heels
4. Operator shall carry not more than two passengers
5. All tricycles must have their headlights on turned on at all times after dark.
6. Tricycles shall ride on the far right of the road at all times except when making a left turn where the motorcycle has to use the middle lane.

The Ministry of Transport shall set regulation as required regarding the operations of commercial vehicles.

## **16.0 Pedestrians Rights and Duties**

### **16.1 Duties of pedestrians generally.**

Every pedestrian shall obey the traffic signs, signals, and lights at intersections, as provided for unless otherwise directed by a traffic officer on duty at an intersection. Before crossing a highway or entering an intersection, a pedestrian shall first ascertain the proximity of approaching vehicles. In the absence of any traffic control device or traffic officer, every pedestrian shall comply with the provisions of this chapter and with other provisions of this title relating to pedestrians.

### **16.2. Control of traffic in safety zones and crosswalks.**

1. The Minister of Justice in collaboration with other relevant Ministries shall cause to be established safety zones and crosswalks at intersections in all municipalities and at pedestrian crossings on the public highways.
2. No vehicle shall stop in a safety zone or crosswalk established in accordance with the provisions of this section.

3. Pedestrian shall have the right of way within the crosswalks. Where traffic control signs, signals, or lights are not in place or not functional, vehicle operators shall yield the right of way, slowing down or stopping if necessary, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk, or when the pedestrian enters the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the other half of the roadway as to be in danger; provided, however, that no pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or safety zone or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle that is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield.

4. Walking to right. Pedestrians shall walk, whenever practicable, upon the right half of a crosswalk.

### **16.3. Pedestrians to use crosswalks.**

Every pedestrian shall strictly comply with the directions of any sign or other official traffic control signal that prohibits pedestrians from crossing any street in a business district or any designated highway except at a crosswalk. No pedestrian shall cross a roadway between adjacent intersections at which traffic control signals or lights are in operation except in a marked crosswalk. Any pedestrian who ignores the crosswalk and crosses the road outside of the crosswalk shall be liable for Jaywalking and shall not be held liable as indicated in section 16.5.

### **16.4. Crossing in absence of crosswalk.**

Every pedestrian who crosses a highway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or who crosses an intersection within an unmarked crosswalk shall yield the right of way to all vehicles on the roadway. Whenever a pedestrian crosses a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided, he shall yield the right of way to all vehicles on the roadway.

### **16.5. Vehicle operators to exercise due caution.**

Every vehicle operator shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian who is using the crosswalk. Operators shall exercise extra precautions upon observing the use of the crosswalk and stop immediately to give the pedestrian the right away. Any operator who collides with or strikes a pedestrian using the crosswalk commits an offense. In addition to bearing the cost of such an accident, the operators shall be required to pay a fine of a minimum of Two Hundred United States Dollars or not more than Three Hundred United States Dollars or the Liberian Dollar equivalent, or have the operators driving privileges suspended for a period one year or imprisonment for one year or all of the above stated sanctions.

#### **16.6 Stopping vehicle before sidewalk.**

The driver of a vehicle emerging from an alley, driveway, or building within a business or residential district shall stop his vehicle immediately before driving onto the sidewalk or sidewalk area extending across such driveway, alley, or building entrance and shall yield the right of way to any pedestrian on or entering such sidewalk or sidewalk area.

#### **16.7 Pedestrians walking along road.**

When sidewalks are provided, it shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to walk on or along or adjacent to any highway rather than on the sidewalk. When sidewalks are not provided, every pedestrian shall, whenever practicable, walk on the outside left edge of the highway or its shoulder, facing oncoming traffic.

#### **16.8 Vehicles Use of Sidewalk Prohibited**

Vehicles are prohibited from driving on the sidewalk that is intended for the use of pedestrians. An operator driving his/her vehicle on the sidewalk has committed an offense which shall be punishable by a fine not less than Twenty-Five (\$25.00) United States Dollars and not more than Fifty United States Dollars (\$50.00) or its Liberian Dollar equivalent or face a prison term of two weeks or both.