

LOCAL LAW PERM 6 OF 2024
LOCAL LAW INTRO. NO. 4 of 2024

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 337 OF THE BROOME COUNTY CHARTER AND ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

Section 1. Chapter 337 of the Broome County Charter and Code is amended in part as follows:

337-4. Notice of Liability.

a. A notice of liability shall be sent by first class mail to each person alleged to be liable as an owner for a violation of subdivision (a) of section 1174 of the New York Vehicle and Traffic Law. Personal delivery on the owner shall not be required. A manual or automatic record of mailing prepared in the ordinary course of business shall be prima facie evidence of the facts contained therein.

b. A notice of liability shall contain the name and address of the person alleged to be liable as an owner for a violation of subdivision (a) of section 1174 of the New York Vehicle and Traffic Law, the registration number of the vehicle involved in such violation, the location where such violation took place, the date and time of such violation, the identification number of the school bus photo violation monitoring system which recorded the violation or other document locator number and the registration number of the school bus on which the school bus photo violation monitoring system which recorded the violation was installed.

c. A notice of liability shall contain information advising the person charged of the manner and the time in which he or she may contest the liability alleged in the notice. Such notice of liability shall also contain a warning to advise the persons charged that failure to contest in the manner and time provided shall be deemed an admission of liability and that a default judgment may be entered thereon.

337-5. Owner Liability.

a. The demonstration program established hereunder shall provide that the owner of a vehicle shall be liable for a penalty imposed pursuant to this local law if such vehicle was used or operated with the permission of the owner, express or implied, in violation of subdivision (a) of section 1174 of the New York Vehicle and Traffic Law and such violation is evidenced by information obtained from a school bus photo violation monitoring system; provided however that no owner of a vehicle shall be liable for a penalty imposed by subdivision (a) of Section 1174 of the New York Vehicle and Traffic Law where the operator of such vehicle has been convicted of the underlying violation of subdivision (a) of Section 1174 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law. For purpose of this subsection, there shall be a presumption that such vehicle was used and operated with the consent of the owner at the time it was used and operated in violation of subdivision (a) of section 1174 of the New York Vehicle and Traffic Law.

b. If an owner receives a notice of liability pursuant to this local law for any time period during which the vehicle was reported to the police as having been stolen, it shall be a valid defense to an allegation of liability for a violation of subdivision (a) of section 1174 of the New York Vehicle and Traffic Law pursuant to this local law that the vehicle had been reported to the police as stolen prior to the time the violation occurred and had not been recovered by such time. For purposes of asserting the defense provided by this subdivision, it shall be sufficient that a certified copy of the Police report be submitted to the court having jurisdiction.

c. An owner who is a lessor of a vehicle to which a notice of liability was issued pursuant to this local law shall not be liable for the violation of subdivision (a) of section 1174 of the New York Vehicle and Traffic Law, provided that he or she sends to the Court of Competent Jurisdiction a copy of the rental, lease or other such contract document covering such vehicle on the date of the violation, with the name and address of the lessee clearly legible, within 37 days after receiving

notice from the agency of the date and time of such violation, together with the other information contained in the original notice of liability. Failure to send such information within such 37-day time period shall render the owner liable for the penalty prescribed by this local law. Where the Lessor complies with the provisions of this paragraph, the lessee of such vehicle for purposes of this section, shall be deemed to be the owner of such vehicle on the date of such violation shall be deemed to be the owner of such vehicle for the purposes of this section, shall be subject to liability for the violation of subdivision (a) of section 1174 of the New York Vehicle and Traffic Law pursuant to this local law and shall be sent a notice of liability pursuant to section 4 of this local law.

d. A certificate, sworn to or affirmed by a technician employed by the County, or a facsimile thereof, based upon inspection of photographs, microphotographs, videotapes, other recorded images produced by a school bus photo violation monitoring system, and other documents or declarations pertaining to inspections by the department of transportation, shall be prima facie evidence of the facts contained therein. Such certificate, or a facsimile thereof, shall provide the identification number of the school bus photo violation monitoring system which recorded the violation, a statement confirming that at the time such violation was recorded by such school bus photo violation monitoring system, such school bus photo violation monitoring system was installed on a school bus marked and equipped as provided in subdivisions twenty and twenty-one-c of section three hundred seventy-five of this chapter as evidenced by a valid certificate of inspection issued to such school bus by the department of transportation pursuant to section one hundred forty of the transportation law and the safety rules and regulations—promulgated thereunder, and the registration number of the school bus to which such school bus photo violation monitoring system was attached. Any photographs, microphotographs, videotapes, other recorded images evidencing such a violation shall include a recorded image of the outside of the motor vehicle involved in such violation, the registration number of such vehicle, at least one activated school bus stop-arm, and an electronic indicator or indicators showing the activation of the flashing red signal lamps of the school bus to which the school bus photo violation monitoring system producing such photographs, microphotographs, videotape or other recorded images was installed at the time such violation occurred, and shall be available for inspection in any proceeding to adjudicate the liability for such violation. Where recorded images from a school bus photo violation monitoring system attached to a school bus, as certified pursuant to this subdivision, show the activation of at least one school bus stop-arm and an electronic indicator or indicators as required pursuant to this subdivision, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that such school bus was stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging any passengers or because a school bus in front of it had stopped to receive or discharge any passengers. A certificate, sworn to or affirmed by a technician employed by the county, city, town or village in which the charged violation occurred, or a facsimile thereof, after reviewing evidence that on the day the charged violation occurred such school bus had a valid certificate of inspection issued by the department of transportation pursuant to section one hundred forty of the transportation law and the safety rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, shall be prima facie evidence that such school bus was marked and equipped as provided in subdivisions twenty and twenty-one-c of section three hundred seventy-five of this chapter and the flashing red signal lamp of such school bus was in operation at the time the violation occurred.

Section 2. Effective Date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon final adoption and shall remain in full force and effect until December 1, 2029.