

321.260 Interference with devices, signs, or signals — unlawful possession — traffic signal preemption devices.

1. a. A person who willfully and intentionally, without lawful authority, attempts to or in fact alters, defaces, injures, knocks down, or removes an official traffic-control device, an authorized warning sign or signal or barricade, whether temporary or permanent, a railroad sign or signal, an inscription, shield, or insignia on any of such devices, signs, signals, or barricades, or any other part thereof, shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a simple misdemeanor and shall be required to make restitution to the affected jurisdiction. In addition to any other penalties, the punishment imposed for a violation of [this subsection](#) shall include assessment of a fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars.

b. A person who is convicted under paragraph “a” of an act relating to a stop sign or a yield sign may be required to complete community service in addition to making restitution to the affected jurisdiction.

2. It shall be unlawful for any person to have in the person’s possession any official traffic-control device except by legal right or authority. Any person convicted of unauthorized possession of any official traffic-control device shall upon conviction be guilty of a simple misdemeanor punishable as a scheduled violation under [section 805.8A, subsection 8, paragraph “c”](#).

3. a. A person shall not sell, own, possess, or use a traffic signal preemption device except as permitted in connection with the lawful operation of an authorized emergency vehicle as defined in [section 321.1](#) or as otherwise authorized by the jurisdiction owning and operating an official traffic control signal. A person who is convicted of the unauthorized sale, ownership, possession, or use of a traffic signal preemption device is guilty of a simple misdemeanor. In addition to any other penalties, the punishment imposed for a violation under [this subsection](#) shall include assessment of a fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars, and if the violation involves the unauthorized use of a traffic signal preemption device, the person may also be required to complete community service.

b. For purposes of [this subsection](#), “*traffic signal preemption device*” means a device that, when activated, is capable of changing an official traffic control signal to green out of sequence.

[C39, §5019.09; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §321.260]

[90 Acts, ch 1064, §1; 91 Acts, ch 131, §1; 99 Acts, ch 153, §3, 4; 2005 Acts, ch 63, §1; 2020 Acts, ch 1074, §32, 93](#)

Referred to in [§805.8A\(8\)\(c\)](#)