

281.990 Penalties.

- (1) Except as provided in subsections (4) and (5) of this section, a person shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25) and no more than two hundred dollars (\$200), if the person:
 - (a) Violates, causes, aids, or abets any violation of the provisions of this chapter, or any order, rule, or administrative regulation lawfully issued pursuant to authority granted by this chapter;
 - (b) Knowingly makes any false or erroneous statement, report, or representation to the Department of Vehicle Regulation with respect to any matter placed under the jurisdiction of the department by this chapter;
 - (c) Knowingly makes any false entry in the accounts or records required to be kept pursuant to the authority granted by this chapter; or
 - (d) Knowingly fails to keep, or knowingly destroys or mutilates, any accounts or records.

Every device to evade or to prevent the application of any provision of this chapter, or any lawful order, rule or administrative regulation of the department issued pursuant thereto, shall constitute a violation thereof.

- (2)
 - (a) Any person who violates KRS 281.630(1) or 281.631(1) shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500).
 - (b) Any person who operates as a motor carrier in violation of the terms of his or her certificate or motor carrier vehicle license shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500).
- (3) A person who violates KRS 281.630(9) shall not be subject to a penalty under this section.
- (4)
 - (a) Except as provided in this subsection, any person who violates KRS 281.757 shall be fined two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each offense.
 - (b) A person who is cited for a violation of KRS 281.757 in which the lights were inoperable or the reflectors were missing may, within thirty (30) days from the date of the citation, provide proof to the county attorney of the county in which the offense occurred that the mechanical problem has been repaired and that the lights are in working order or that the required reflectors have been placed on the vehicle. If such proof is shown, the citation shall be dismissed.
 - (c) A law enforcement officer and the department shall not issue a citation to a person as violating KRS 281.757 if the atmospheric conditions all motorists were subjected to at the time the person is stopped reasonably limit the ability of a person to keep the vehicle's lights or reflectors from being obscured by dirt, mud, or debris.
- (5)
 - (a) A towing company or storage facility which violates KRS 281.920 to 281.936 shall be subject the following administrative penalties levied by the cabinet:
 1. For each violation, up to four (4) violations within a three (3) year period, the towing company or storage facility shall have its certificate

- suspended for thirty (30) days; and
2. For each subsequent violation within a three (3) year period, a towing company or storage facility shall have its certificate suspended for twelve (12) months.
- (b) During a period when a towing company or storage facility has had its certificate suspended, the towing company or storage facility shall not charge fees.
- (6) The cabinet may promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to set additional penalties for violations of KRS 281.920 to 281.936.

Effective: June 27, 2025

History: Amended 2025 Ky. Acts ch. 152, sec. 7, effective June 27, 2025. -- Amended 2024 Ky. Acts ch. 79, sec. 3, effective July 15, 2024; and ch. 198, sec. 13, effective July 15, 2024. -- Amended 2015 Ky. Acts ch. 19, sec. 33, effective June 24, 2015. -- Amended 2001 Ky. Acts ch. 159, sec. 2, effective June 21, 2001. -- Amended 2000 Ky. Acts ch. 512, sec. 9, effective July 14, 2000. -- Amended 1998 Ky. Acts ch. 331, sec. 6, effective July 15, 1998. -- Amended 1979 (1st Extra. Sess.) Ky. Acts ch. 7, sec. 7, effective July 1, 1979. -- Amended 1978 Ky. Acts ch. 101, sec. 6, effective June 17, 1978. -- Amended 1974 Ky. Acts ch. 74, Art. IV, sec. 20(2). -- Amended 1960 Ky. Acts ch. 139, sec. 10, effective June 16, 1960. -- Created 1950 Ky. Acts ch. 63, sec. 56, effective June 15, 1950.

History for former KRS 281.990: Repealed 1950 Ky. Acts ch. 63, sec. 57, effective June 15, 1950. -- Amended 1942 Ky. Acts ch. 185, sec. 1. -- Recodified 1942 Ky. Acts ch. 208, sec. 1, effective October 1, 1942, from Ky. Stat. secs. 2739j-39, 2739j-90, 2739j-91, 27391-14.

Legislative Research Commission Note (1/25/2018). In subsection (1) of this statute, the Reviser of Statutes has changed a reference to "subsection (5) of this section" to read "subsection (4) of this section." In 2015 Ky. Acts ch. 19, sec. 33, the existing subsection (5) was renumbered as subsection (4), but an internal reference to that subsection in the existing language of this statute was overlooked.