

NEW YORK -- It's not uncommon to see police cars stopped when you're traveling along various state highways. But the new year brings a new law requiring you to give them room and move from the lane closest to that vehicle that has red or white flashing lights.

"The highway is the most dangerous area for any law enforcement officer, especially a New York State Trooper. When you're dealing with speeds of 65 or higher, you're looking not only for your safety but also trying to exactly figure out what's happening in the car in front of you," said New York State Police Information Officer Jack Keller.

The Ambrose-Searles Move Over Act was named for two fallen officers. Trooper Robert Ambrose was killed by a drunk driver during a traffic stop on the Thruway in Yonkers in 2002. Onondaga County Sheriff's Deputy Glenn Searles was hit and killed by a vehicle while helping a stranded motorist on Route 481 back in 2003.

Keller said, "We still remember Bob. I'm kind of happy this law was named after him and Deputy Searles who from the Central New York region who was again pivotal in making this into law."

If you can't move over as the law requires, police say let common sense prevail and slow down to a safe speed.

"Most people are aware of it or they already do the cautious thing and pull over and/or slow down. So the majority of people already pay attention," Keller said, "This is for those people who don't pay attention and aren't aware of the safety and the dangers that are happening on the highway."

And those people will face a fine of up to \$275 and two points on their driver's license record.

Currently, Hawaii and Washington, D.C. are the only places in the country that do not have move over laws.