



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

**Committee Bill No. 6285**

LCO No. 4022

Referred to Committee on Public Safety

Introduced by:  
(PS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF FLASHING WHITE HEAD LAMPS  
BY FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL PERSONNEL.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Subsection (a) of section 14-96p of the general statutes is repealed  
2 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) (1) No person shall display upon any motor vehicle any light  
4 visible from the front thereof other than white, yellow or amber, or any  
5 light other than red, yellow, amber or white visible from the rear  
6 thereof, except a light used with any school bus, without a written  
7 permit from the commissioner. If the Department of Transportation  
8 obtains from the commissioner such a permit covering more than one  
9 motor vehicle operated by the department, it may display the lights  
10 allowed under the permit on each such vehicle without placing a copy  
11 of the permit in each vehicle. (2) Any vehicle accommodating fifteen or  
12 [less] fewer handicapped students may use a flashing red light or  
13 lights during the time such vehicle is stopped for the purpose of  
14 receiving or discharging such handicapped students, any motor bus  
15 may carry a purple light or lights, any interstate public service vehicle  
16 may carry a green light or lights, any taxicab may carry a lunar white

17 light or lights, and any interstate commercial motor vehicle may  
18 display green identification lights, in front thereof, as the  
19 commissioner may permit. (3) A vehicle being operated by the chief  
20 executive officer of an emergency medical service organization, as  
21 defined in section 19a-175, an ambulance, as defined in section 19a-175,  
22 [or] a vehicle being operated by a local fire marshal or a local director  
23 of emergency management may use a flashing red light or lights or  
24 flashing white head lamps and a flashing amber light while on the way  
25 to the scene of an emergency, except that an ambulance may use  
26 flashing lights of other colors specified by federal requirements for the  
27 manufacture of such vehicle. The chief executive officer of each such  
28 organization shall provide annually during the month of January, on  
29 forms provided by the commissioner, such officer's name and address  
30 and the registration number on the number plate or plates of the  
31 vehicle on which the authorized red light is or white head lamps and  
32 amber light are to be used. A vehicle being operated by a member of a  
33 paid or volunteer fire department or company, or a paid or volunteer  
34 emergency medical technician may use flashing white head lamps,  
35 provided such member or emergency medical technician is on the way  
36 to the scene of a fire or medical emergency and has received written  
37 authorization from the chief of such fire department or company to use  
38 such head lamps. (4) Flashing or revolving white lights may not be  
39 displayed upon a motor vehicle except [(1)] (A) on fire emergency  
40 apparatus, [(2)] (B) on motor vehicles of paid and volunteer fire chiefs  
41 and their first and second deputies or their first and second assistants  
42 should there be no deputies, [(3)] (C) as a means of indicating a right or  
43 left turn, [(4)] (D) in conjunction with flashing red lights on an  
44 ambulance responding to an emergency call, or [(5)] (E) on the top rear  
45 of any school bus. For the purpose of this subsection, the term  
46 "handicapped students" means mentally retarded, hard of hearing,  
47 deaf, speech-impaired, visually handicapped, emotionally disturbed,  
48 orthopedically impaired or other health-impaired students, or students  
49 with specific learning disabilities, who by reason thereof, require  
50 special education and related services; and the term "flashing white

51 lights" shall not include the simultaneous flashing of head lamps.

**Statement of Purpose:**

To allow the use of flashing white head lamps on route to fire or medical emergencies by paid or volunteer firefighters and EMTs.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors:    REP. GREENE, 105th Dist.; REP. DARGAN, 115th Dist.  
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                         REP. KLARIDES, 114th Dist.; REP. COLLINS, 117th Dist.  
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