



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Raised Bill No. 395

LCO No. 1571

Referred to Committee on Public Safety

Introduced by:
(PS)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF FLASHING RED LIGHTS ON
MOTOR VEHICLES OF FIRE CHIEFS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 14-96q of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2002*):

4 (c) Flashing lights are prohibited on motor vehicles other than
5 school buses, except (1) as a means for indicating a right or left turn, (2)
6 flashing blue lights used by members of volunteer or civil
7 preparedness fire companies, as provided by subsection (b) of section
8 14-96p, (3) on certain emergency and maintenance vehicles by written
9 permit from the commissioner, (4) flashing or revolving yellow lights
10 on (A) wreckers registered pursuant to section 14-66, or (B) vehicles of
11 carriers in rural mail-delivery service or vehicles transporting or
12 escorting any vehicle or load or combinations of vehicles or vehicles
13 and load which is or are either oversize or overweight, or both, and
14 operated or traveling under a permit issued by the Commissioner of
15 Transportation pursuant to section 14-270, (5) flashing red lights (A) on
16 a motor vehicle accommodating fifteen or fewer handicapped students

17 used only during the time such vehicle is stopped for the purpose of
18 receiving or discharging such handicapped students, (B) used by
19 members of the fire police on a stationary vehicle as a warning signal
20 during traffic directing operations at the scene of a fire, (C) on rescue
21 vehicles, (D) used by chief executive officers of emergency medical
22 service organizations as provided in subsection (a) of section 14-96p,
23 (E) ambulances, as defined in section 19a-175, [or] (F) used by local fire
24 marshals or directors of emergency management, or (G) on motor
25 vehicles of paid and volunteer fire chiefs and their designated
26 assistants or deputies while on the way to the scene of a fire or other
27 emergency requiring their services, (6) flashing green lights used by
28 members of volunteer ambulance associations or companies as
29 provided in subsection (c) of section 14-96p, or (7) flashing white lights
30 or flashing lights of other colors specified by federal requirements for
31 the manufacture of an ambulance used in conjunction with flashing
32 red lights or flashing head lamps and a flashing amber light on an
33 ambulance responding to an emergency call. The prohibitions in this
34 section shall not prevent the operator of a motor vehicle who while
35 traveling on a limited access divided highway, because of the grade, is
36 unable to maintain the minimum speed of forty miles per hour, or who
37 while traveling on any other highway is operating such motor vehicle
38 at such slow speed as to obstruct or endanger following traffic, or the
39 operator of a disabled vehicle stopped on a hazardous location on the
40 highway, or in close proximity thereto, from flashing lights, installed
41 on the vehicle primarily for other purposes, in any manner that the
42 operator selects so as to indicate that such vehicle is traveling slowly,
43 obstructing traffic or is disabled and is a hazard to be avoided. The
44 commissioner is authorized, at such commissioner's discretion, to issue
45 special permits for the use of flashing or revolving lights on emergency
46 vehicles, on escort vehicles and on maintenance vehicles, provided any
47 person, firm or corporation other than the state or any metropolitan
48 district, town, city or borough shall pay an annual permit fee of two
49 dollars for each such vehicle, provided vehicles not registered in this
50 state used for transporting or escorting any vehicle or load or

51 combinations of vehicles or vehicles and load which is or are either
52 oversize or overweight, or both, when operating under a permit issued
53 by the Commissioner of Transportation pursuant to section 14-270,
54 shall not require such permit. On and after July 1, 1985, such annual
55 permit fee shall be three dollars, on and after July 1, 1989, four dollars
56 and fifty cents, on and after July 1, 1991, five dollars and seventy-five
57 cents and on and after July 1, 1993, seven dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2002</i>

PS *Joint Favorable*