



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Committee Bill No. 6207

LCO No. 3902

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:
(TRA)

**AN ACT ALLOWING THE USE OF FLASHING RED OR WHITE LIGHTS
ON MOTOR VEHICLES OF FIRE CHIEFS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 14-96p of the
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

4 (3) A vehicle being operated by the chief executive officer of an
5 emergency medical service organization, as defined in section 19a-175,
6 an ambulance, as defined in section 19a-175, a vehicle being operated
7 by a local fire marshal or a local director of emergency management
8 may use a flashing red light or lights or flashing white head lamps and
9 a flashing amber light while on the way to the scene of an emergency,
10 except that an ambulance may use flashing lights of other colors
11 specified by federal requirements for the manufacture of such vehicle.
12 The chief executive officer of each such organization shall provide
13 annually during the month of January, on forms provided by the
14 commissioner, such officer's name and address and the registration
15 number on the number plate or plates of the vehicle on which the
16 authorized red light is or white head lamps and amber light are to be

17 used. A vehicle being operated by a member of a volunteer fire
18 department or company or a volunteer emergency medical technician
19 may use flashing white head lamps, provided such member or
20 emergency medical technician is on the way to the scene of a fire or
21 medical emergency and has received written authorization from the
22 chief law enforcement officer of the municipality to use such head
23 lamps. Such head lamps shall only be used within the municipality
24 granting such authorization or from a personal residence or place of
25 employment, if located in an adjoining municipality. Such
26 authorization may be revoked for use of such head lamps in violation
27 of this subdivision. A vehicle being operated by paid and volunteer
28 fire chiefs, their first and second deputies, or their first and second
29 assistants should there be no deputies, may use flashing red lights,
30 alone or in conjunction with a siren, provided said fire chiefs, deputies
31 or assistants are on the way to the scene of a fire or medical
32 emergency.

33 Sec. 2. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 14-96p of the
34 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
35 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

36 (4) Flashing or revolving white lights may not be displayed upon a
37 motor vehicle except (A) on fire emergency apparatus, (B) on motor
38 vehicles of paid and volunteer fire chiefs and their first and second
39 deputies or their first and second assistants should there be no
40 deputies, and, if the fire chiefs, deputies or assistants are on the way to
41 the scene of a fire or medical emergency, said lights may be used in
42 conjunction with a siren, (C) as a means of indicating a right or left
43 turn, (D) in conjunction with flashing red lights on an ambulance
44 responding to an emergency call, or (E) on the top rear of any school
45 bus. For the purpose of this subsection, the term "handicapped
46 students" means mentally retarded, hard of hearing, deaf, speech-
47 impaired, visually handicapped, emotionally disturbed, orthopedically
48 impaired or other health-impaired students, or students with specific
49 learning disabilities, who by reason thereof, require special education

50 and related services; and the term "flashing white lights" shall not
51 include the simultaneous flashing of head lamps.

52 Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 14-96q of the general statutes is
53 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
54 *October 1, 2003*):

55 (c) Flashing lights are prohibited on motor vehicles other than
56 school buses, except (1) as a means for indicating a right or left turn, (2)
57 flashing blue lights used by members of volunteer or civil
58 preparedness fire companies, as provided by subsection (b) of section
59 14-96p, (3) on certain emergency and maintenance vehicles by written
60 permit from the commissioner, (4) flashing or revolving yellow lights
61 on (A) wreckers registered pursuant to section 14-66, or (B) vehicles of
62 carriers in rural mail-delivery service or vehicles transporting or
63 escorting any vehicle or load or combinations of vehicles or vehicles
64 and load which is or are either oversize or overweight, or both, and
65 operated or traveling under a permit issued by the Commissioner of
66 Transportation pursuant to section 14-270, (5) flashing red lights (A) on
67 a motor vehicle accommodating fifteen or fewer handicapped students
68 used only during the time such vehicle is stopped for the purpose of
69 receiving or discharging such handicapped students, (B) used by
70 members of the fire police on a stationary vehicle as a warning signal
71 during traffic directing operations at the scene of a fire, (C) on rescue
72 vehicles, (D) used by chief executive officers of emergency medical
73 service organizations as provided in subsection (a) of section 14-96p, as
74 amended by this act, (E) ambulances, as defined in section 19a-175, or
75 (F) used by local fire marshals or directors of emergency management,
76 (6) flashing green lights used by members of volunteer ambulance
77 associations or companies as provided in subsection (c) of section
78 14-96p, [or] (7) flashing white lights or flashing lights of other colors
79 specified by federal requirements for the manufacture of an ambulance
80 used in conjunction with flashing red lights or flashing head lamps
81 and a flashing amber light on an ambulance responding to an
82 emergency call, or (8) flashing red or flashing white lights used by paid

83 and volunteer fire chiefs and their first and second deputies or their
84 first and second assistants should there be no deputies. The
85 prohibitions in this section shall not prevent the operator of a motor
86 vehicle who while traveling on a limited access divided highway,
87 because of the grade, is unable to maintain the minimum speed of
88 forty miles per hour, or who while traveling on any other highway is
89 operating such motor vehicle at such slow speed as to obstruct or
90 endanger following traffic, or the operator of a disabled vehicle
91 stopped on a hazardous location on the highway, or in close proximity
92 thereto, from flashing lights, installed on the vehicle primarily for
93 other purposes, in any manner that the operator selects so as to
94 indicate that such vehicle is traveling slowly, obstructing traffic or is
95 disabled and is a hazard to be avoided. The commissioner is
96 authorized, at such commissioner's discretion, to issue special permits
97 for the use of flashing or revolving lights on emergency vehicles, on
98 escort vehicles and on maintenance vehicles, provided any person,
99 firm or corporation other than the state or any metropolitan district,
100 town, city or borough shall pay an annual permit fee of two dollars for
101 each such vehicle, provided vehicles not registered in this state used
102 for transporting or escorting any vehicle or load or combinations of
103 vehicles or vehicles and load which is or are either oversize or
104 overweight, or both, when operating under a permit issued by the
105 Commissioner of Transportation pursuant to section 14-270, shall not
106 require such permit. On and after July 1, 1985, such annual permit fee
107 shall be three dollars, on and after July 1, 1989, four dollars and fifty
108 cents, on and after July 1, 1991, five dollars and seventy-five cents and
109 on and after July 1, 1993, seven dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To allow the use of flashing red or white lights with a siren on the motor vehicles of volunteer fire chiefs and their deputies or assistants while responding to a fire or other emergency.

[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. BARRY, 12th Dist.; SEN. CIOTTO, 9th Dist.
REP. GUERRERA, 29th Dist.

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