



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6207**

*January Session, 2003*

**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2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  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, in  
30 conjunction with a siren, provided said fire chiefs, deputies or  
31 assistants are on the way to the scene of a fire or medical emergency.

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33 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  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

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

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52 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  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

54 (c) Flashing lights are prohibited on motor vehicles other than  
55 school buses, except (1) as a means for indicating a right or left turn, (2)  
56 flashing blue lights used by members of volunteer or civil  
57 preparedness fire companies, as provided by subsection (b) of section  
58 14-96p, (3) on certain emergency and maintenance vehicles by written  
59 permit from the commissioner, (4) flashing or revolving yellow lights  
60 on (A) wreckers registered pursuant to section 14-66, or (B) vehicles of  
61 carriers in rural mail-delivery service or vehicles transporting or  
62 escorting any vehicle or load or combinations of vehicles or vehicles  
63 and load which is or are either oversize or overweight, or both, and  
64 operated or traveling under a permit issued by the Commissioner of  
65 Transportation pursuant to section 14-270, (5) flashing red lights (A) on  
66 a motor vehicle accommodating fifteen or fewer handicapped students  
67 used only during the time such vehicle is stopped for the purpose of  
68 receiving or discharging such handicapped students, (B) used by  
69 members of the fire police on a stationary vehicle as a warning signal  
70 during traffic directing operations at the scene of a fire, (C) on rescue  
71 vehicles, (D) used by chief executive officers of emergency medical  
72 service organizations as provided in subsection (a) of section 14-96p, as  
73 amended by this act, (E) ambulances, as defined in section 19a-175, or  
74 (F) used by local fire marshals or directors of emergency management,  
75 (6) flashing green lights used by members of volunteer ambulance  
76 associations or companies as provided in subsection (c) of section  
77 14-96p, [or] (7) flashing white lights or flashing lights of other colors  
78 specified by federal requirements for the manufacture of an ambulance  
79 used in conjunction with flashing red lights or flashing head lamps  
80 and a flashing amber light on an ambulance responding to an  
81 emergency call, or (8) flashing red or flashing white lights used by paid  
82 and volunteer fire chiefs and their first and second deputies or their  
83 first and second assistants should there be no deputies. The  
84 prohibitions in this section shall not prevent the operator of a motor  
85 vehicle who while traveling on a limited access divided highway,  
86 because of the grade, is unable to maintain the minimum speed of  
87 forty miles per hour, or who while traveling on any other highway is  
88 operating such motor vehicle at such slow speed as to obstruct or

89 endanger following traffic, or the operator of a disabled vehicle  
90 stopped on a hazardous location on the highway, or in close proximity  
91 thereto, from flashing lights, installed on the vehicle primarily for  
92 other purposes, in any manner that the operator selects so as to  
93 indicate that such vehicle is traveling slowly, obstructing traffic or is  
94 disabled and is a hazard to be avoided. The commissioner is  
95 authorized, at such commissioner's discretion, to issue special permits  
96 for the use of flashing or revolving lights on emergency vehicles, on  
97 escort vehicles and on maintenance vehicles, provided any person,  
98 firm or corporation other than the state or any metropolitan district,  
99 town, city or borough shall pay an annual permit fee of two dollars for  
100 each such vehicle, provided vehicles not registered in this state used  
101 for transporting or escorting any vehicle or load or combinations of  
102 vehicles or vehicles and load which is or are either oversize or  
103 overweight, or both, when operating under a permit issued by the  
104 Commissioner of Transportation pursuant to section 14-270, shall not  
105 require such permit. On and after July 1, 1985, such annual permit fee  
106 shall be three dollars, on and after July 1, 1989, four dollars and fifty  
107 cents, on and after July 1, 1991, five dollars and seventy-five cents and  
108 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>

**TRA**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

**PS**        *Joint Favorable*