



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

Raised Bill No. 6628

LCO No. 2865

02865_____VA_

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Veterans Affairs

Introduced by:
(VA)

**AN ACT CONCERNING FLASHING LIGHTS ON VEHICLES OF THE
CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 14-96p of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (b) A blue light may not be illuminated upon a motor vehicle, except
5 that a vehicle being operated by an active member of a volunteer fire
6 department or company, [or] an active member of an organized civil
7 preparedness auxiliary fire company or the National Guard civil
8 support team who has been authorized in writing by the chief
9 executive officer of such department or company or by the commander
10 of the civil support team may use such a light, including a flashing
11 blue light, while on the way to the scene of a fire or other emergency
12 requiring his services. Such authorization may be revoked by such
13 officer or commander or his or her successor. The chief executive
14 officer of each volunteer fire department or company or organized civil
15 preparedness auxiliary fire company or the commander of the civil
16 support team shall certify annually during the month of January, on

17 forms provided by the commissioner, the names and addresses of
18 members whom [he] such officer or commander has authorized to use
19 a blue light as provided in this subsection. Such listing shall also
20 designate the registration number on the number plate or plates of the
21 vehicle on which the authorized blue light is to be used.

22 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 14-96q of the general statutes is
23 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
24 *passage*):

25 (c) Flashing lights are prohibited on motor vehicles other than
26 school buses, except (1) as a means for indicating a right or left turn, (2)
27 flashing blue lights used by members of volunteer or civil
28 preparedness fire companies, as provided by subsection (b) of section
29 14-96p, (3) on certain emergency and maintenance vehicles by written
30 permit from the commissioner, (4) flashing or revolving yellow lights
31 on (A) wreckers registered pursuant to section 14-66, or (B) vehicles of
32 carriers in rural mail-delivery service or vehicles transporting or
33 escorting any vehicle or load or combinations of vehicles or vehicles
34 and load which is or are either oversize or overweight, or both, and
35 operated or traveling under a permit issued by the Commissioner of
36 Transportation pursuant to section 14-270, (5) flashing red lights (A) on
37 a motor vehicle accommodating fifteen or fewer handicapped students
38 used only during the time such vehicle is stopped for the purpose of
39 receiving or discharging such handicapped students, (B) used by
40 members of the fire police on a stationary vehicle as a warning signal
41 during traffic directing operations at the scene of a fire, (C) on rescue
42 vehicles, including vehicles of the National Guard civil support team,
43 (D) used by chief executive officers of emergency medical service
44 organizations as provided in subsection (a) of section 14-96p, (E)
45 ambulances, as defined in section 19a-175, or (F) used by local fire
46 marshals, [or] directors of emergency management or the commander
47 of the National Guard civil support team, (6) flashing green lights used
48 by members of volunteer ambulance associations or companies as
49 provided in subsection (c) of section 14-96p, or (7) flashing white lights

50 or flashing lights of other colors specified by federal requirements for
51 the manufacture of an ambulance used in conjunction with flashing
52 red lights or flashing head lamps and a flashing amber light on an
53 ambulance responding to an emergency call. The prohibitions in this
54 section shall not prevent the operator of a motor vehicle who while
55 traveling on a limited access divided highway, because of the grade, is
56 unable to maintain the minimum speed of forty miles per hour, or who
57 while traveling on any other highway is operating such motor vehicle
58 at such slow speed as to obstruct or endanger following traffic, or the
59 operator of a disabled vehicle stopped on a hazardous location on the
60 highway, or in close proximity thereto, from flashing lights, installed
61 on the vehicle primarily for other purposes, in any manner that the
62 operator selects so as to indicate that such vehicle is traveling slowly,
63 obstructing traffic or is disabled and is a hazard to be avoided. The
64 commissioner is authorized, at such commissioner's discretion, to issue
65 special permits for the use of flashing or revolving lights on emergency
66 vehicles, on escort vehicles and on maintenance vehicles, provided any
67 person, firm or corporation other than the state or any metropolitan
68 district, town, city or borough shall pay an annual permit fee of two
69 dollars for each such vehicle, provided vehicles not registered in this
70 state used for transporting or escorting any vehicle or load or
71 combinations of vehicles or vehicles and load which is or are either
72 oversize or overweight, or both, when operating under a permit issued
73 by the Commissioner of Transportation pursuant to section 14-270,
74 shall not require such permit. Such annual permit fee shall be twenty
75 dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	14-96p(b)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	14-96q(c)

Statement of Purpose:

To permit the usage of blue lights and flashing red lights on vehicles of the National Guard civil support team and its commander.

[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.]