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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 6583**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF EMERGENCY LIGHTS BY A CONSTABLE OR A MEMBER OF A VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION OR COMPANY.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill allows vehicles operated by volunteer ambulance associations' or companies' active members to use flashing blue lights, rather than green or flashing green lights, while on the way to or at the scene of an emergency. Existing law, unchanged by the bill, allows (1) vehicles operated by members of volunteer fire departments or civil preparedness auxiliary fire companies to use flashing blue lights and (2) Department of Transportation-owned and -operated maintenance vehicles to use green or flashing green lights.

As under current law, the (1) member must have a permit to use the lights issued by the ambulance association or company's chief executive officer and (2) chief executive officer must keep on file the names and addresses of members and registration numbers of vehicles authorized to use the lights.

The bill also authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles commissioner to issue permits allowing appointed or elected constables to use flashing red lights on a stationary vehicle as a warning signal during traffic directing operations. The law already authorizes the commissioner to issue permits for emergency vehicles, including state or local police cars driven by a police officer responding to an emergency call or pursuing suspects, to use flashing blue, red, yellow, or white lights, or any combination of them.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/16/2023)