



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6583

January Session, 2023



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

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

1 Section 1. Section 14-96q of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

3 (a) A permit is required for the use of colored or flashing lights on
4 all motor vehicles or equipment specified in this section except: (1)
5 Motor vehicles not registered in this state used for transporting or
6 escorting any vehicle or load, or combinations thereof, which is either
7 oversize or overweight, or both, when operating under a permit issued
8 by the Commissioner of Transportation pursuant to section 14-270; or
9 (2) motor vehicles or equipment that are (A) equipped with lights in
10 accordance with this section, (B) owned or leased by the federal
11 government, the state of Connecticut, or any other state,
12 commonwealth or local municipality, and (C) registered to such
13 governmental entity. When used in this section, the term "flashing"
14 shall be considered to include the term "revolving".

15 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, or such other person
16 specifically identified in this section, [is authorized to] may issue
17 permits for the use of colored or flashing lights on vehicles in
18 accordance with this section, at the commissioner's or such person's

19 discretion. Any person, firm or corporation other than the state or any
20 metropolitan district, town, city or borough shall pay an annual permit
21 fee of twenty dollars to the commissioner for each such vehicle. Such
22 fee shall apply only to permits issued by the commissioner.

23 (c) A flashing blue light or lights may be used on a motor vehicle
24 operated by an active member of a volunteer fire department or
25 company or an active member of an organized civil preparedness
26 auxiliary fire company who has been issued a permit by the chief
27 executive officer of such department or company to use a flashing blue
28 light or lights while on the way to or at the scene of a fire or other
29 emergency requiring such member's services. Such permit shall be on a
30 form provided by the commissioner and may be revoked by such chief
31 executive officer or successor. The chief executive officer of each
32 volunteer fire department or company or organized civil preparedness
33 auxiliary fire company shall keep on file, on forms provided by the
34 commissioner, the names and addresses of members who have been
35 authorized to use a flashing blue light or lights as provided in this
36 subsection. Such listing shall also designate the registration number of
37 the motor vehicle on which authorized a flashing blue light or lights
38 are to be used.

39 (d) A [green light or lights, including a] flashing [green] blue light
40 or lights [,] may be used on a motor vehicle operated by an active
41 member of a volunteer ambulance association or company who has
42 been issued a permit by the chief executive officer of such association
43 or company to use such a light or lights, while on the way to or at the
44 scene of an emergency requiring such member's services. Such permit
45 shall be on a form provided by the commissioner and may be revoked
46 by such chief executive officer or successor. The chief executive officer
47 of each volunteer ambulance association or company shall keep on file,
48 on forms provided by the commissioner, the names and addresses of
49 members who have been authorized to use a flashing [green] blue light
50 or lights as provided in this subsection. Such listing shall also
51 designate the registration number of the motor vehicle on which the

52 authorized flashing [green] blue light or lights are to be used.

53 (e) The commissioner may issue a permit for a flashing red light or
54 lights which may be used on a motor vehicle or equipment (1) used by
55 paid fire chiefs and their deputies and assistants, up to a total of five
56 individuals per department, (2) used by volunteer fire chiefs and their
57 deputies and assistants, up to a total of five individuals per
58 department, (3) used by members of the fire police on a stationary
59 vehicle as a warning signal during traffic directing operations at the
60 scene of a fire or emergency, (4) used by chief executive officers of
61 emergency medical service organizations, as defined in section 19a-
62 175, the first or second deputies, or if there are no deputies, the first or
63 second assistants, of such an organization that is a municipal or
64 volunteer or licensed organization, (5) used by local fire marshals, [or]
65 (6) used by directors of emergency management, or (7) used by a
66 constable, appointed pursuant to an ordinance authorized by section 9-
67 185 or elected pursuant to section 9-200, on a stationary vehicle as a
68 warning signal during traffic directing operations.

69 (f) The commissioner may issue a permit for a yellow or amber light
70 or lights, including a flashing yellow or amber light or lights, which
71 may be used on motor vehicles or equipment that are (1) specified in
72 subsection (e) of this section, (2) maintenance vehicles, or (3) vehicles
73 transporting or escorting any vehicle or load or combinations thereof,
74 which is or are either oversize or overweight, or both, and being
75 operated or traveling under a permit issued by the Commissioner of
76 Transportation pursuant to section 14-270. A yellow or amber light or
77 lights, including a flashing yellow or amber light or lights, may be
78 used without obtaining a permit from the Commissioner of Motor
79 Vehicles on wreckers registered pursuant to section 14-66, on vehicles
80 of carriers in rural mail delivery service or on vehicles operated by
81 construction inspectors employed by the state of Connecticut,
82 authorized by the Commissioner of Transportation, used during the
83 performance of inspections on behalf of the state. The Commissioner of
84 Transportation shall maintain a list of such authorized construction

85 inspectors, including the name and address of each inspector and the
86 registration number for each vehicle on which the light or lights are to
87 be used.

88 (g) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may issue a permit for a
89 white light or lights, including a flashing white light or lights, which
90 may be used on a motor vehicle or equipment as specified in
91 subdivision (1), (2), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (e) of this section. A
92 vehicle being operated by a member of a volunteer fire department or
93 company or a volunteer emergency medical technician may use
94 flashing white head lamps, provided such member or emergency
95 medical technician is on the way to the scene of a fire or medical
96 emergency and has received written authorization from the chief law
97 enforcement officer of the municipality to use such head lamps. Such
98 head lamps shall only be used within the municipality granting such
99 authorization or from a personal residence or place of employment, if
100 located in an adjoining municipality. Such authorization may be
101 revoked for use of such head lamps in violation of this subdivision. For
102 the purposes of this subsection, the term "flashing white lights" shall
103 not include the simultaneous flashing of head lamps.

104 (h) The commissioner may issue a permit for emergency vehicles, as
105 defined in subsection (a) of section 14-283, to use a blue, red, yellow, or
106 white light or lights, including a flashing light or lights or any
107 combination thereof, except as provided in subsection (k) of this
108 section.

109 (i) The commissioner may issue a permit for ambulances, as defined
110 in section 19a-175, which may, in addition to the flashing light or lights
111 allowed in subsection (h) of this section, use flashing lights of other
112 colors specified by federal requirements for the manufacture of an
113 ambulance. If the commissioner issues a permit for any ambulance,
114 such permit shall be issued at the time of registration and upon each
115 renewal of such registration.

116 (j) A green, yellow or amber light or lights, including a flashing

117 green, yellow or amber light or lights or any combination thereof, may
118 be used on a maintenance vehicle owned and operated by the
119 Department of Transportation.

120 (k) No person, other than a police officer or inspector of the
121 Department of Motor Vehicles operating a state or local police vehicle,
122 shall operate a motor vehicle displaying a steady blue or steady red
123 illuminated light or both steady blue and steady red illuminated lights
124 that are visible externally from the front of the vehicle.

125 (l) Use of colored and flashing lights except as authorized by this
126 section shall be an infraction.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-96q

PS *Joint Favorable Subst.*