

1 H.520

2 Introduced by Representative Jerman of Essex

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Motor vehicles; fire and emergency medical response vehicles;  
6 lamps; visibility

7 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require that at least one of the red  
8 or red and white signal lamps on a fire or emergency medical response vehicle  
9 be visible from 360 degrees when the lamp is in use. This bill also proposes to  
10 make certain technical and clarifying corrections.

11 An act relating to visibility of lamps on fire and emergency medical  
12 response vehicles

13 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

14 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1251 is amended to read:

15 § 1251. SIRENS AND COLORED SIGNAL LAMPS; ~~OUT-OF-STATE~~  
16 GENERAL PERMIT REQUIREMENT; EXCEPTION FOR  
17 OUT-OF-STATE EMERGENCY AND RESCUE VEHICLES

18 (a) A motor vehicle shall not be operated upon a highway of this state  
19 equipped with a siren or signal lamp colored other than amber unless a permit  
20 authorizing this equipment, issued by the commissioner of motor vehicles

1 pursuant to section 1252 of this title, is carried in the vehicle. A permit may be  
2 transferred following the same procedure and subject to the same time limits as  
3 set forth in section 321 of this title. The commissioner may adopt additional  
4 rules as may be required to govern the acquisition of permits and the use  
5 pertaining to sirens and colored signal lamps.

6 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, when  
7 responding to emergencies, law enforcement vehicles, ambulances, fire  
8 department vehicles, or vehicles owned or leased by, or provided to, volunteer  
9 firefighters or rescue squad members which are registered or licensed by  
10 another state or province may use sirens and signal lamps in Vermont, and a  
11 permit shall not be required for such use, as long as the vehicle is properly  
12 permitted in its home state or province.

13 Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 1252 is amended to read:

14 § 1252. ~~USES OF~~ ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR SIRENS OR COLORED  
15 LAMPS OR BOTH; USE OF SIRENS AND LAMPS

16 (a) ~~When~~ Upon application and when satisfied as to the condition and use  
17 of the vehicle, the commissioner shall issue and may revoke, for cause, permits  
18 ~~for authorizing use of~~ sirens or colored signal lamps ~~in the following manner as~~  
19 follows:

20 (1) Sirens or blue or blue and white signal lamps, or a combination of  
21 these, may be authorized for all law enforcement vehicles, owned or leased by

1 a law enforcement agency or a certified law enforcement officer ~~and if~~. If the  
2 applicant is a constable, the application shall be accompanied by a certification  
3 by the town clerk that the applicant is the duly elected or appointed constable  
4 and attesting that the town has not voted to limit the constable's authority to  
5 engage in enforcement activities under 24 V.S.A. § 1936a.

6 (2) Sirens and red or red and white signal lamps may be authorized for  
7 all ambulances, fire ~~apparatus~~ department vehicles, vehicles used solely in  
8 rescue operations, or vehicles owned or leased by, or provided to, volunteer  
9 firemen and voluntary rescue squad members, including a vehicle owned by a  
10 volunteer's employer when the volunteer has the written authorization of the  
11 employer to use the vehicle for emergency fire or rescue activities ~~and motor~~  
12 ~~vehicles used solely in rescue operations.~~

13 (3) ~~No vehicle may be authorized a permit~~ The commissioner shall not  
14 issue a permit for more than one of the combinations described in subdivisions  
15 (1) and (2) of this subsection.

16 (4) ~~Notwithstanding subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, no~~ No  
17 motor vehicle, other than one owned by the applicant, shall be issued a permit  
18 until ~~such time as the commissioner can adequately record the~~ has recorded  
19 information regarding both the owner of the vehicle and the applicant for the  
20 permit.

1           (5) Upon application to the commissioner, the commissioner may issue  
2 a single permit for all the vehicles owned or leased by the applicant.

3           (b) Amber signal lamps shall be used on road maintenance vehicles, service  
4 vehicles, and wreckers when being used for maintenance, service, or towing  
5 and shall be used on all registered snow removal equipment when in use  
6 removing snow on public highways ~~and the~~. The amber lamps shall be  
7 mounted so as to be visible in a 360-degree arc from ~~all sides of~~ the motor  
8 vehicle. A vehicle equipped with an amber signal lamp may not be issued a  
9 permit for the installation and use of a siren.

10           (c) When the red or red and white signal lamps of a vehicle permitted under  
11 subdivision (a)(2) of this section are in use, at least one lamp shall be mounted  
12 so as to be visible in a 360-degree arc from the vehicle.

13           Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

14           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.