

1 H.544

2 Introduced by Representatives Macaig of Williston, Dakin of Chester, Davis

3 of Washington, Frank of Underhill, Larocque of Barnet and

4 Lenex of Shelburne

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Motor vehicles; emergency vehicles; enforcement vehicles; colored

8 lights; permit

9 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to authorize the operators of

10 ambulances and fire department vehicles to use blue and amber lights by

11 permit, and to authorize the operators of law enforcement vehicles to use red

12 and amber lights by permit.

13 An act relating to the use of colored lights by enforcement and emergency
14 vehicles

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

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

2 § 1251. SIRENS AND COLORED SIGNAL LAMPS; ~~OUT-OF-STATE~~

3 GENERAL PERMIT REQUIREMENT; EXCEPTION FOR

4 OUT-OF-STATE EMERGENCY AND RESCUE VEHICLES

5 (a) A motor vehicle shall not be operated upon a highway of this state
6 equipped with a siren or signal lamp colored other than amber unless a permit
7 authorizing this equipment, issued by the commissioner of motor vehicles
8 pursuant to section 1252 of this title, is carried in the vehicle. A permit may be
9 transferred following the same procedure and subject to the same time limits as
10 set forth in section 321 of this title. The commissioner may adopt additional
11 rules as may be required to govern the acquisition of permits and the use
12 pertaining to sirens and colored signal lamps.

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

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

2 § 1252. ~~USES OF~~ ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR SIRENS OR COLORED
3 LAMPS OR BOTH; USE OF SIRENS AND LAMPS

4 (a) ~~When~~ Upon receipt of an application and when satisfied as to the
5 condition and use of the vehicle, the commissioner shall issue and may revoke,
6 for cause, permits ~~for~~ authorizing use of sirens or colored signal lamps ~~in the~~
7 ~~following manner~~ as follows:

8 (1) Sirens or blue ~~or blue and, red, amber, or~~ white signal lamps, or a
9 combination of these, may be authorized for all law enforcement vehicles,
10 owned or leased by a law enforcement agency or a certified law enforcement
11 officer ~~and if~~. If the applicant is a constable, the application shall be
12 accompanied by a certification by the town clerk that the applicant is the duly
13 elected or appointed constable and attesting that the town has not voted to limit
14 the constable's authority to engage in enforcement activities under 24 V.S.A.
15 § 1936a.

16 (2) Sirens and red or red and white signal lamps may be authorized for
17 all ambulances, fire ~~apparatus~~ department vehicles, vehicles used solely in
18 rescue operations, or vehicles owned or leased by, or provided to, volunteer
19 ~~firemen~~ firefighters and voluntary rescue squad members, including a vehicle
20 owned by a volunteer's employer when the volunteer has the written
21 authorization of the employer to use the vehicle for emergency fire or rescue
22 activities ~~and motor vehicles used solely in rescue operations~~. In addition to

1 red or white signal lamps, blue or amber signal lamps may be authorized for
2 ambulances and municipal fire department vehicles.

3 (3) ~~No vehicle may be authorized a permit for more than one of the~~
4 ~~combinations described in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection.~~

5 [Repealed.]

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

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

13 (b) Amber signal lamps shall be used on road maintenance vehicles, service
14 vehicles, and wreckers when being used for maintenance, service, or towing,
15 and shall be used on all registered snow removal equipment when in use
16 removing snow on public highways ~~and the.~~ The amber lamps shall be
17 mounted so as to be visible from all sides of the motor vehicle. A vehicle
18 equipped with an amber signal lamp may not be issued a permit for the
19 installation and use of a siren.

20 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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