

1 H.31

2 Introduced by Representatives Jerman of Essex and Macaig of Williston

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Motor vehicles; emergency vehicles; enforcement vehicles; colored
6 lights; permit

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize the
8 operators of ambulances and fire department vehicles to use blue and amber
9 lights visible from the rear of the vehicles by permit and to authorize the
10 operators of law enforcement vehicles to use red and amber lights by permit.

11 An act relating to the use of colored lights by enforcement and emergency
12 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~~ 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 Commissioner pursuant to section 1252 of this title, is carried in the vehicle. A
2 permit may be transferred following the same procedure and subject to the
3 same time limits as set forth in section 321 of this title. The ~~commissioner~~
4 Commissioner may adopt additional rules as may be required to govern the
5 acquisition of permits and the use pertaining to sirens and colored signal
6 lamps.

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

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

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

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

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

9 (2) Sirens and red or red and white signal lamps may be authorized for
10 all ambulances, fire ~~apparatus~~ department vehicles, vehicles used solely in
11 rescue operations, or vehicles owned or leased by, or provided to volunteer
12 ~~firemen~~ firefighters and voluntary rescue squad members, including a vehicle
13 owned by a volunteer's employer when the volunteer has the written
14 authorization of the employer to use the vehicle for emergency fire or rescue
15 activities ~~and motor vehicles used solely in rescue operations.~~ In addition to
16 red or red and white signal lamps, blue or blue and amber signal lamps visible
17 from the rear of the vehicle may be authorized for ambulances and municipal
18 fire department vehicles.

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

21 [Repealed.]

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

6 (5) Upon application to the ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner, the
7 ~~commissioner~~ Commissioner may issue a single permit for all the vehicles
8 owned or leased by the applicant.

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

16 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.