

H.198

Introduced by Representatives Cheney of Norwich, Masland of Thetford,
McCullough of Williston and Minter of Waterbury

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Motor vehicles; headlights; windshield wipers

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require that whenever a motor
vehicle is operated on a highway and the windshield wipers are in use, the
headlights shall be illuminated.

An act relating to illuminating motor vehicle headlights whenever wipers
are in use

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

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1243(a) and (b) are amended to read:

(a) A motor vehicle, except a motorcycle and ~~no-ped moped~~, in use or at
rest on a highway, unless otherwise provided, during the period from 30
minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise, shall also be equipped with
at least two lighted ~~head-lamps~~ headlights of substantially the same intensity
and with reflectors and lenses of a design approved by the commissioner of
motor vehicles, and with a lighted tail or rear lamp of a design so approved. A
motorcycle or ~~no-ped moped~~ may be operated during the period mentioned if

1 equipped with at least one lighted ~~head-lamp~~ headlight and at least one lighted
2 tail or rear ~~lamp~~ light, both of a design approved by the commissioner of motor
3 vehicles. A side car attached to such motorcycle or ~~mo-ped~~ moped shall be
4 equipped with a light on the right side of such side car visible from the front
5 thereof. A person shall not operate a motor vehicle during the period
6 mentioned unless it is equipped as defined in this section.

7 (b) Every vehicle upon a highway within this state, at any time from ~~thirty~~
8 30 minutes after sunset to ~~thirty~~ 30 minutes before sunrise and at any other
9 time when, due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions,
10 persons or vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of
11 ~~five hundred~~ 500 feet ahead, shall display lighted ~~lamps~~ headlights and
12 illuminating devices as respectively required for different classes of vehicles,
13 subject to exceptions with respect to parked vehicles. Additionally, whenever
14 a motor vehicle is operated upon a highway and the windshield wipers are in
15 use as a result of rain, sleet, snow, hail, fog, or other unfavorable atmospheric
16 condition, the headlights and taillights shall be illuminated.