

1 H.198

2 Introduced by Representative Shaw of Pittsford

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Motor vehicles; colored lights; fire department vehicles; EMS  
6 vehicles

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize the  
8 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to issue a permit for the use of one blue light  
9 on a fire department or EMS vehicle, provided the light is mounted so as to be  
10 visible primarily from the rear of the vehicle.

11 An act relating to the use of colored lights on fire department and  
12 emergency service vehicles

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

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

15 § 1252. ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR SIRENS OR COLORED LAMPS,  
16 OR BOTH; USE OF AMBER LAMPS

17 (a) When satisfied as to the condition and use of the vehicle, the  
18 Commissioner shall issue and may revoke, for cause, permits for sirens or  
19 colored signal lamps in the following manner:

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

9           (B) One blue signal lamp may be authorized for use on a vehicle  
10 owned or leased by a fire department or on an emergency medical service  
11 (EMS) vehicle, provided that the Commissioner shall require the lamp to be  
12 mounted so as to be visible primarily from the rear of the vehicle.

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

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

3           [Repealed.]

4           (4) No motor vehicle, other than one owned by the applicant, shall be  
5           issued a permit until the Commissioner has recorded the information regarding  
6           both the owner of the vehicle and the applicant for the permit.

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

9           (6) Sirens and red or red and white signal lamps, or sirens and blue or  
10           blue and white signal lamps, may be authorized for restored emergency or  
11           enforcement vehicles used for exhibition purposes. Sirens and lamps  
12           authorized under this subdivision may only be activated during an exhibition,  
13           such as a car show or parade.

14   \* \* \*

15           Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 1255 is amended to read:

16           § 1255. EXCEPTIONS

17           ~~(1)~~(a) The provisions of section 1251 of this title shall not apply to  
18           directional signal lamps of a type approved by the Commissioner of Motor  
19           Vehicles.

20           ~~(2)~~(b) All persons with motor vehicles equipped as provided in ~~subdivision~~  
21           subdivisions 1252(a)(1) and (2) of this title, shall use the sirens or colored

1 signal lamps, or both, only in the direct performance of their official duties.  
2 When any person other than a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or  
3 emergency medical service (EMS) responder is operating a motor vehicle  
4 equipped as provided in subdivision 1252(a)(1) of this title, the colored signal  
5 lamp shall be either removed, covered, or hooded. When any person, other  
6 than an authorized ~~ambulance~~ EMS vehicle operator, firefighter, or authorized  
7 operator of vehicles used in a rescue operation, is operating a motor vehicle  
8 equipped as provided in subdivision 1252(a)(2) of this title, the colored signal  
9 lamps shall be either removed, covered, or hooded unless the operator holds a  
10 senior operator license.

11 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.