

1 S.292

2 Introduced by Senators Collamore and Hooker

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Motor vehicles; colored lights; colored signal lamps; fire department
6 vehicles; EMS vehicles; funeral procession vehicles

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize the
8 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to issue permits for the use of blue, amber,
9 red, and purple signal lamps on law enforcement, fire department, EMS, and
10 funeral procession lead vehicles.

11 An act relating to the use of colored signal lamps on law enforcement, fire
12 department, emergency medical service, and funeral procession 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) Siren and signal lamp permits. When satisfied as to the condition and
18 use of the vehicle, the Commissioner shall issue and may revoke, for cause,
19 permits for sirens ~~or~~ and colored signal lamps in the following manner:

1 (1)(A) ~~Sirens, or blue or signal lamps, or~~ blue and white signal lamps, or
2 a combination ~~of these~~ thereof, may be authorized for all law enforcement
3 vehicles owned or leased by a law enforcement agency, a certified law
4 enforcement officer, or the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council.

5 (B) A red signal lamp or an amber signal lamp, or a combination
6 thereof, may be authorized for all law enforcement vehicles owned or leased
7 by a law enforcement agency, a certified law enforcement officer, or the
8 Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council, provided that the Commissioner
9 shall require the lamp or lamps be mounted so as to be visible primarily from
10 the rear of the vehicle.

11 (C) 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)(A) Sirens and red or red and white signal lamps may be authorized
17 for all ambulances, ~~fire apparatus~~ and other emergency medical service (EMS)
18 vehicles, vehicles owned or leased by a fire department, vehicles used solely in
19 rescue operations, or vehicles owned or leased by, or provided to, volunteer
20 firefighters and voluntary rescue squad members, including a vehicle owned by

1 a volunteer's employer when the volunteer has the written authorization of the
2 employer to use the vehicle for emergency fire or rescue activities.

3 (B) A blue signal lamp or an amber signal lamp, or a combination
4 thereof, may be authorized for all EMS vehicles or vehicles owned or leased
5 by a fire department, provided that the Commissioner shall require the lamp or
6 lamps be mounted so as to be visible primarily from the rear of the vehicle.

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

9 [Repealed.]

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

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

15 (6) Sirens and red or red and white signal lamps; or sirens and blue or
16 blue and white signal lamps; may be authorized for restored emergency or
17 enforcement vehicles used for exhibition purposes. Sirens and lamps
18 authorized under this subdivision may only be activated during an exhibition,
19 such as a car show or parade.

1 (7) One purple signal lamp may be authorized for all funeral procession
2 lead vehicles, provided that the Commissioner shall require the lamp be
3 mounted so as to be visible primarily from the front of the vehicle.

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

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

12 § 1255. EXCEPTIONS

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

16 ~~(2)(b)~~ (b) All persons with motor vehicles equipped as provided in ~~subdivision~~
17 subdivisions 1252(a)(1) ~~and~~, (2), and (7) of this title, shall use the sirens or
18 colored signal lamps, or both, only in the direct performance of their official
19 duties. When any person other than a law enforcement officer is operating a
20 motor vehicle equipped as provided in subdivision 1252(a)(1) of this title, the
21 colored signal ~~lamp~~ lamps shall be either removed, covered, or hooded. When

1 any person, other than an authorized ~~ambulance~~ emergency medical service
2 vehicle operator, firefighter, or authorized operator of vehicles used in rescue
3 ~~operation~~ operations, is operating a motor vehicle equipped as provided in
4 subdivision 1252(a)(2) of this title, the colored signal lamps shall be either
5 removed, covered, or hooded unless the operator holds a senior operator
6 license. When any person, other than the authorized operator of a funeral
7 procession lead vehicle, is operating a motor vehicle as provided in subdivision
8 1252(a)(7) of this title, the colored signal lamp shall be either removed,
9 covered, or hooded.

10 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.