

1 H.56

2 Introduced by Representatives Shaw of Pittsford and Savage of Swanton

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Motor vehicles; colored lights; colored signal lamps; fire department
6 vehicles; emergency medical service vehicles; EMS 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 and red signal lamps on law enforcement, fire department, and emergency
10 medical service vehicles.

11 An act relating to the use of colored signal lamps on law enforcement, fire
12 department, and emergency medical 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~~ and
19 colored signal lamps in the following manner:

1 (1)(A) Sirens ~~or~~, blue signal lamps, or blue and white signal lamps, or a
2 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 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 Council, provided that the Commissioner shall
9 require the lamp or lamps be mounted so as to be visible primarily from the
10 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.

20 (b) Amber signal lamps shall be used on road maintenance vehicles, service
21 vehicles, and wreckers and shall be used on all registered snow removal

1 equipment when in use removing snow on public highways, and the amber
2 lamps shall be mounted so as to be visible from all sides of the motor vehicle.
3 ~~A vehicle equipped with an amber signal lamp~~ Road maintenance vehicles,
4 service vehicles, and wreckers may not be issued a permit for the installation
5 and use of a siren.

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

7 § 1255. EXCEPTIONS

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

10 (b) All persons with motor vehicles equipped as provided in subdivisions
11 1252(a)(1) and (2) of this title shall use the sirens or colored signal lamps, or
12 both, only in the direct performance of their official duties. When any person
13 other than a law enforcement officer is operating a motor vehicle equipped as
14 provided in subdivision 1252(a)(1) of this title, the colored signal ~~lamp~~ lamps
15 shall be either removed, covered, or hooded. When any person other than an
16 authorized ~~ambulance~~ emergency medical service vehicle operator, firefighter,
17 or authorized operator of vehicles used in rescue ~~operation~~ operations is
18 operating a motor vehicle equipped as provided in subdivision 1252(a)(2) of
19 this title, the colored signal lamps shall be either removed, covered, or hooded
20 unless the operator holds a senior operator license.

1 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.