

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Transportation to which was referred Senate Bill No. 40
3 entitled “An act relating to the use of colored signal lamps on fire department
4 and emergency medical service vehicles” respectfully reports that it has
5 considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out
6 all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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

8 § 1252. ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR SIRENS OR COLORED LAMPS,
9 OR BOTH; USE OF AMBER LAMPS

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

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

17 (B) A red signal lamp or an amber signal lamp, or a combination
18 thereof, may be authorized for all law enforcement vehicles owned or leased
19 by a law enforcement agency, a certified law enforcement officer, or the
20 Vermont Criminal Justice Council, provided that the Commissioner shall

1 require the lamp or lamps be mounted so as to be visible primarily from the
2 rear of the vehicle and only used when the vehicle is parked.

3 (C) If the applicant is a constable, the application shall be
4 accompanied by a certification by the town clerk that the applicant is the duly
5 elected or appointed constable and attesting that the town has not voted to limit
6 the constable's authority to engage in enforcement activities under 24 V.S.A.
7 § 1936a.

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

15 (B) A blue signal lamp or an amber signal lamp, or a combination
16 thereof, may be authorized for all EMS vehicles or vehicles owned or leased
17 by a fire department, provided that the Commissioner shall require the lamp or
18 lamps be mounted so as to be visible primarily from the rear of the vehicle and
19 only used when the vehicle is parked.

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 * * *

5 (b) Amber signal lamps shall be used on road maintenance vehicles, service
6 vehicles, and wreckers and shall be used on all registered snow removal
7 equipment when in use removing snow on public highways, and the amber
8 lamps shall be mounted so as to be visible from all sides of the motor vehicle.

9 ~~A vehicle equipped with an amber signal lamp~~ Road maintenance vehicles,
10 service vehicles, and wreckers may not be issued a permit for the installation
11 and use of a siren.

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

13 § 1255. EXCEPTIONS

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

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

1 authorized ~~ambulance~~ emergency medical service vehicle operator, firefighter,
2 or authorized operator of vehicles used in rescue ~~operation~~ operations is
3 operating a motor vehicle equipped as provided in subdivision 1252(a)(2) of
4 this title, the colored signal lamps shall be either removed, covered, or hooded
5 unless the operator holds a senior operator license.

6 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

8 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act
9 relating to the use of colored signal lamps on law enforcement, fire
10 department, and emergency medical service vehicles”

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16 (Committee vote: _____)

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Senator _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE