

1 H.413

2 Introduced by Representative Kimbell of Woodstock

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Motor vehicles; use of required lamps; use of required lights;
6 windshield wipers

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require
8 operators of vehicles on a highway to illuminate required lamps while
9 windshield wipers are in continuous use or as a result of weather conditions
10 that limit visibility and to require that a motor vehicle's taillights be visible
11 from a distance of at least 300 feet behind the vehicle.

12 An act relating to use of illuminating lights and visibility of taillights

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

14 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1243(b) is amended to read:

15 (b) ~~Every~~ A person operating a vehicle upon a highway within this State,
16 shall illuminate all front, tail or rear, and clearance lamps with which the
17 vehicle is required to be equipped pursuant to this chapter at any time all of the
18 following times:

19 (1) ~~from~~ From 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise ~~and~~
20 ~~at any other time when.~~

1 (2) When, due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric weather
2 conditions, persons or vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a
3 distance of 500 feet ahead, ~~shall display lighted lamps and illuminating devices~~
4 ~~as respectively required for different classes of vehicles, subject to exceptions~~
5 ~~with respect to parked vehicles~~ including when persons or vehicles on the
6 highway in front of the vehicle are not clearly discernible due to rain, snow,
7 fog, dust, smoke, or other particulate matter.

8 (3) When windshield wipers are in continuous, as opposed to
9 intermittent, use as a result of weather conditions. A person who violates this
10 subdivision shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$200.00 but shall not be
11 subject to the assessment of points against the person's driving record.

12 Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 1248 is amended to read:

13 § 1248. TAILLIGHTS

14 (a) Every motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer, and pole trailer, and any other
15 vehicle that is being drawn at the end of a combination of vehicles, shall be
16 equipped with at least two red taillamps mounted on the rear that emit light
17 that is visible at a distance of 300 feet behind the vehicle, except that one
18 taillamp shall be allowed on any vehicle equipped with only one when it was
19 manufactured. Nothing shall be towed behind a motor vehicle, or mounted or
20 placed on the rear of a motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer, pole trailer, or any
21 other vehicle that is being drawn at the end of a combination of vehicles, that

1 prevents the light emitted by at least two red taillamps from being visible at a
2 distance of 300 feet behind the vehicle.

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4 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.