

HB 942 -- EMERGENCY VEHICLES OPERATED AS POLICE VEHICLES

SPONSOR: Myers

Currently, the driver of an emergency vehicle may park or stand, regardless of the normal rules of the road; proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, after slowing down as necessary for safe operation; exceed the speed limit as long as the driver does not endanger life or property; and disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions. These exemptions only apply to emergency vehicles that, while in motion, sound audible signals by bell, siren, or exhaust whistle as reasonably necessary, and when the vehicle is equipped with at least one lighted lamp displaying a red light or blue light visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to the front of such vehicle.

This bill provides that an authorized emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle is not required to use an audible signal or display a visual signal when the vehicle is being used to get evidence of a speeding violation; respond to a suspected crime in progress when use of an audible or visual signal, or both, could reasonably result in the destruction of evidence or escape of a suspect; or conduct surveillance of a vehicle or the passengers of a vehicle who are suspected of involvement in a crime.