

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 942

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

---

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MYERS.

2110H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

---

## AN ACT

To repeal sections 300.100 and 304.022, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to emergency vehicles, with penalty provisions.

---

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Sections 300.100 and 304.022, RSMo, are repealed and two new sections  
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 300.100 and 304.022, to read as follows:

300.100. 1. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when responding to an  
2 emergency call or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or when  
3 responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, may exercise the privileges set forth in  
4 this section, but subject to the conditions herein stated.

5 2. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle may:

6 (1) Park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this ordinance;

7 (2) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may  
8 be necessary for safe operation;

9 (3) Exceed the maximum speed limits so long as he does not endanger life or  
10 property;

11 (4) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified  
12 directions.

13 3. The exemptions herein granted to an authorized emergency vehicle shall apply  
14 only when the driver of any said vehicle while in motion sounds audible signal by siren or  
15 while having at least one lighted lamp exhibiting a red light visible under normal atmospheric  
16 conditions from a distance of five hundred feet to the front of such vehicle or a flashing blue  
17 light authorized by section 307.175, **except that an authorized emergency vehicle operated**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets ~~thus~~ in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 **as a police vehicle is not required to use an audible signal or display a visual signal when**  
19 **the vehicle is being used to:**

20 **(1) Obtain evidence of a speeding violation;**

21 **(2) Respond to a suspected crime in progress when use of an audible or visual**  
22 **signal, or both, could reasonably result in the destruction of evidence or escape of a**  
23 **suspect; or**

24 **(3) Conduct surveillance of a vehicle or the passengers of a vehicle who are**  
25 **suspected of involvement in a crime.**

26 4. The foregoing provisions shall not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency  
27 vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons, nor shall such  
28 provisions protect the driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of  
29 others.

304.022. 1. Upon the immediate approach of an emergency vehicle giving audible  
2 signal by siren or while having at least one lighted lamp exhibiting red light visible under  
3 normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred feet to the front of such  
4 vehicle or a flashing blue light authorized by section 307.175, the driver of every other  
5 vehicle shall yield the right-of-way and shall immediately drive to a position parallel to, and  
6 as far as possible to the right of, the traveled portion of the highway and thereupon stop and  
7 remain in such position until such emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise  
8 directed by a police or traffic officer.

9 2. Upon approaching a stationary vehicle displaying lighted red or red and blue lights,  
10 or a stationary vehicle displaying lighted amber or amber and white lights, the driver of every  
11 motor vehicle shall:

12 (1) Proceed with caution and yield the right-of-way, if possible with due regard to  
13 safety and traffic conditions, by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to that of the  
14 stationary vehicle, if on a roadway having at least four lanes with not less than two lanes  
15 proceeding in the same direction as the approaching vehicle; or

16 (2) Proceed with due caution and reduce the speed of the vehicle, maintaining a safe  
17 speed for road conditions, if changing lanes would be unsafe or impossible.

18 3. The motorman of every streetcar shall immediately stop such car clear of any  
19 intersection and keep it in such position until the emergency vehicle has passed, except as  
20 otherwise directed by a police or traffic officer.

21 4. An "emergency vehicle" is a vehicle of any of the following types:

22 (1) A vehicle operated by the state highway patrol, the state water patrol, the Missouri  
23 capitol police, a conservation agent, or a state or a county or municipal park ranger, those  
24 vehicles operated by enforcement personnel of the state highways and transportation  
25 commission, police or fire department, sheriff, constable or deputy sheriff, federal law

26 enforcement officer authorized to carry firearms and to make arrests for violations of the laws  
27 of the United States, traffic officer, coroner, medical examiner, or forensic investigator of the  
28 county medical examiner's office, or by a privately owned emergency vehicle company;

29 (2) A vehicle operated as an ambulance or operated commercially for the purpose of  
30 transporting emergency medical supplies or organs;

31 (3) Any vehicle qualifying as an emergency vehicle pursuant to section 307.175;

32 (4) Any wrecker, or tow truck or a vehicle owned and operated by a public utility or  
33 public service corporation while performing emergency service;

34 (5) Any vehicle transporting equipment designed to extricate human beings from the  
35 wreckage of a motor vehicle;

36 (6) Any vehicle designated to perform emergency functions for a civil defense or  
37 emergency management agency established pursuant to the provisions of chapter 44;

38 (7) Any vehicle operated by an authorized employee of the department of corrections  
39 who, as part of the employee's official duties, is responding to a riot, disturbance, hostage  
40 incident, escape or other critical situation where there is the threat of serious physical injury  
41 or death, responding to mutual aid call from another criminal justice agency, or in  
42 accompanying an ambulance which is transporting an offender to a medical facility;

43 (8) Any vehicle designated to perform hazardous substance emergency functions  
44 established pursuant to the provisions of sections 260.500 to 260.550;

45 (9) Any vehicle owned by the state highways and transportation commission and  
46 operated by an authorized employee of the department of transportation that is marked as a  
47 department of transportation emergency response or motorist assistance vehicle; or

48 (10) Any vehicle owned and operated by the civil support team of the Missouri  
49 National Guard while in response to or during operations involving chemical, biological, or  
50 radioactive materials or in support of official requests from the state of Missouri involving  
51 unknown substances, hazardous materials, or as may be requested by the appropriate state  
52 agency acting on behalf of the governor.

53 5. (1) The driver of any vehicle referred to in subsection 4 of this section shall not  
54 sound the siren thereon or have the front red lights or blue lights on except when such vehicle  
55 is responding to an emergency call or when in pursuit of an actual or suspected law violator,  
56 or when responding to, but not upon returning from, a fire.

57 (2) The driver of an emergency vehicle may:

58 (a) Park or stand irrespective of the provisions of sections 304.014 to 304.025;

59 (b) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may  
60 be necessary for safe operation;

61 (c) Exceed the prima facie speed limit so long as the driver does not endanger life or  
62 property;

63 (d) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified  
64 directions.

65 (3) The exemptions granted to an emergency vehicle pursuant to subdivision (2) of  
66 this subsection shall apply only when the driver of any such vehicle while in motion sounds  
67 audible signal by bell, siren, or exhaust whistle as may be reasonably necessary, and when the  
68 vehicle is equipped with at least one lighted lamp displaying a red light or blue light visible  
69 under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred feet to the front of such  
70 vehicle, **except that an authorized emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle is not**  
71 **required to use an audible signal or display a visual signal when the vehicle is being used**  
72 **to:**

73 (a) **Obtain evidence of a speeding violation;**

74 (b) **Respond to a suspected crime in progress when use of an audible or visual**  
75 **signal, or both, could reasonably result in the destruction of evidence or escape of a**  
76 **suspect; or**

77 (c) **Conduct surveillance of a vehicle or the passengers of a vehicle who are**  
78 **suspected of involvement in a crime.**

79 6. No person shall purchase an emergency light as described in this section without  
80 furnishing the seller of such light an affidavit stating that the light will be used exclusively for  
81 emergency vehicle purposes.

82 7. Violation of this section shall be deemed a class A misdemeanor.

✓