

1 H.543

2 Introduced by Representatives Shand of Weathersfield, Howrigan of Fairfield,

3 Malcolm of Pawlet, Marek of Newfane, Savage of Swanton,

4 Shaw of Pittsford, Stevens of Shoreham and Turner of Milton

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Motor vehicles; municipal fire department vehicles; blue lights

8 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to authorize municipal fire
9 department vehicles to display a blue light visible primarily from the rear of
10 the vehicle.

11 An act relating to authorizing fire department vehicles to display a blue
12 light

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

14 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1251 is amended to read:

15 § 1251. SIRENS AND COLORED SIGNAL LAMPS; ~~OUT-OF-STATE~~

16 GENERAL PERMIT REQUIREMENT; EXCEPTION FOR

17 OUT-OF-STATE EMERGENCY AND RESCUE VEHICLES

18 (a) A motor vehicle shall not be operated upon a highway of this state
19 equipped with a siren or signal lamp colored other than amber unless a permit
20 authorizing this equipment, issued by the commissioner of motor vehicles

1 pursuant to section 1252 of this title, is carried in the vehicle. A permit may be
2 transferred following the same procedure and subject to the same time limits as
3 set forth in section 321 of this title. The commissioner may adopt additional
4 rules as may be required to govern the acquisition of permits and the use
5 pertaining to sirens and colored signal lamps.

6 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, when
7 responding to emergencies, law enforcement vehicles, ambulances, fire
8 department vehicles, or vehicles owned or leased by, or provided to, volunteer
9 firefighters or rescue squad members which are registered or licensed by
10 another state or province may use sirens and signal lamps in Vermont, and a
11 permit shall not be required for such use, as long as the vehicle is properly
12 permitted in its home state or province.

13 Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 1252 is amended to read:

14 § 1252. ~~USES OF~~ ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR SIRENS OR COLORED
15 LAMPS OR BOTH; USE OF SIRENS AND LAMPS

16 (a) ~~When~~ Upon application and when satisfied as to the condition and use
17 of the vehicle, the commissioner shall issue and may revoke, for cause, permits
18 ~~for authorizing use of~~ sirens or colored signal lamps ~~in the following manner as~~
19 follows:

20 (1) Sirens or blue or blue and white signal lamps, or a combination of
21 these, may be authorized for all law enforcement vehicles, owned or leased by

1 a law enforcement agency or a certified law enforcement officer ~~and if~~. If the
2 applicant is a constable, the application shall be accompanied by a certification
3 by the town clerk that the applicant is the duly elected or appointed constable
4 and attesting that the town has not voted to limit the constable's authority to
5 engage in enforcement activities under 24 V.S.A. § 1936a. In addition, one
6 blue signal lamp may be authorized for use on a municipal fire department
7 vehicle in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

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

15 (3) ~~No vehicle may be authorized~~ Except in the case of municipal fire
16 department vehicles, the commissioner shall not issue a permit for more than
17 one of the combinations described in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this
18 subsection.

19 (4) ~~Notwithstanding subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, no~~ No
20 motor vehicle, other than one owned by the applicant, shall be issued a permit
21 until ~~such time as the commissioner can adequately record the~~ has recorded

1 information regarding both the owner of the vehicle and the applicant for the
2 permit.

3 (5) Upon application to the commissioner, the commissioner may issue
4 a single permit for all the vehicles owned or leased by the applicant.

5 (b) Amber signal lamps shall be used on road maintenance vehicles, service
6 vehicles, and wreckers when being used for maintenance, service, or towing,
7 and shall be used on all registered snow removal equipment when in use
8 removing snow on public highways ~~and the~~. The amber lamps shall be
9 mounted so as to be visible from all sides of the motor vehicle. A vehicle
10 equipped with an amber signal lamp may not be issued a permit for the
11 installation and use of a siren.

12 (c) If a municipal fire department vehicle is authorized to display a blue
13 signal lamp pursuant to subdivision (a)(1) of this section, the lamp shall be
14 mounted so as to be visible primarily from the rear of the vehicle.

15 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.