

By the Committee on Transportation; and Senator Argenziano

306-2266-03

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to motor vehicles; amending s.  
316.2398, F.S.; revising provisions that  
regulate the display or use of red lights on  
motor vehicles of volunteer firefighters or  
medical staff; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 316.2398, Florida Statutes, is  
amended to read:

316.2398 Display or use of red warning signals ~~lights~~;  
motor vehicles of volunteer firefighters or medical staff.--

(1) A privately owned vehicle belonging to an active  
firefighter member of a regularly organized volunteer  
firefighting company or association, while en route to the  
fire station for the purpose of proceeding to the scene of a  
fire or other emergency or while en route to the scene of a  
fire or other emergency in the line of duty as an active  
firefighter member of a regularly organized firefighting  
company or association, or a privately owned vehicle belonging  
to a medical staff physician or technician of a medical  
facility licensed by the state, while responding to an  
emergency in the line of duty, may display or use red warning  
signals ~~a red light~~ visible from the front and from the rear  
of such vehicle, subject to the following restrictions and  
conditions:

(a) No more than two red warning signals may be  
displayed ~~A light may not have a light source greater than 50  
candlepower.~~

1           ~~(b) Only one red light of the revolving type may be~~  
2 ~~displayed, and such light must be permanently or magnetically~~  
3 ~~mounted to the dashboard or roof of the vehicle.~~

4           ~~(c) The red light must consist of a lamp with a red~~  
5 ~~lens, but may not consist of an uncolored lens with a red~~  
6 ~~bulb.~~

7           ~~(d) The red light may not be a part of the regular~~  
8 ~~headlamps, taillights, or turn signal lights displayed on such~~  
9 ~~vehicle.~~

10           ~~(b)(e)~~ No inscription of any kind may appear across  
11 the face of the lens of the red warning signal light.

12           ~~(f) The lens of the red light may not be less than 3~~  
13 ~~inches or more than 8 inches in diameter.~~

14           ~~(c)(g)~~ In order for an active volunteer firefighter to  
15 display such red warning signals ~~a red light~~ on his or her  
16 vehicle, the volunteer firefighter must first secure a written  
17 permit from the chief executive officers of the firefighting  
18 organization to use the red warning signals light, and this  
19 permit must be carried by the volunteer firefighter at all  
20 times while the red warning signals ~~are light is~~ displayed.

21           (2) It is unlawful for any person who is not an active  
22 firefighter member of a regularly organized volunteer  
23 firefighting company or association or a physician or  
24 technician of the medical staff of a medical facility licensed  
25 by the state to display on any motor vehicle owned by him or  
26 her, at any time, any red warning signals ~~a red light~~ as  
27 described in subsection (1).

28           (3) It is unlawful for an active volunteer firefighter  
29 to operate any red warning signals ~~a red light~~ as authorized  
30 in subsection (1), except while en route to the fire station  
31 for the purpose of proceeding to the scene of a fire or other

1 emergency, or while at or en route to the scene of a fire or  
2 other emergency, in the line of duty.

3 (4) It is unlawful for a physician or technician of  
4 the medical staff of a medical facility to operate any red  
5 warning signals ~~a red light~~ as authorized in subsection (1),  
6 except when responding to an emergency in the line of duty.

7 (5) A violation of this section is a nonmoving  
8 violation, punishable as provided in chapter 318. In addition,  
9 any volunteer firefighter shall be dismissed from membership  
10 in the firefighting organization by the chief executive  
11 officers thereof.

12 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
13 law.

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15 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
17 Senate Bill 1558

18 The CS limits the use of the red warning signals used by  
19 volunteer firefighters and eligible medical staff to no more  
20 than two on his or her personal motor vehicle.

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