



HB 0075

2003

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to motor vehicles; amending s. 316.2398,
 3 F.S.; revising provisions that regulate the display or use
 4 of red lights on motor vehicles of volunteer firefighters
 5 or medical staff; providing an effective date.

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

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

11 316.2398 Display or use of red warning signals ~~lights~~;
 12 motor vehicles of volunteer firefighters or medical staff.--

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

26 ~~(a) A light may not have a light source greater than 50~~
 27 ~~candlepower.~~

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



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

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

36 (a)(e) No inscription of any kind may appear across the
37 face of the lens of the red warning signal light.

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

40 (b)(g) In order for an active volunteer firefighter to
41 display such red warning signals ~~a red light~~ on his or her
42 vehicle, the volunteer firefighter must first secure a written
43 permit from the chief executive officers of the firefighting
44 organization to use the red warning signals ~~light~~, and this
45 permit must be carried by the volunteer firefighter at all times
46 while the red warning signals ~~are light~~ is displayed.

47 (2) It is unlawful for any person who is not an active
48 firefighter member of a regularly organized volunteer
49 firefighting company or association or a physician or technician
50 of the medical staff of a medical facility licensed by the state
51 to display on any motor vehicle owned by him or her, at any
52 time, any red warning signals ~~a red light~~ as described in
53 subsection (1).

54 (3) It is unlawful for an active volunteer firefighter to
55 operate any red warning signals ~~a red light~~ as authorized in
56 subsection (1), except while en route to the fire station for
57 the purpose of proceeding to the scene of a fire or other
58 emergency, or while at or en route to the scene of a fire or
59 other emergency, in the line of duty.



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

64 (5) A violation of this section is a nonmoving violation,
65 punishable as provided in chapter 318. In addition, any
66 volunteer firefighter shall be dismissed from membership in the
67 firefighting organization by the chief executive officers
68 thereof.

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