



HB 0075

2003
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CHAMBER ACTION

The Committee on Transportation recommends the following:

Committee Substitute

Remove the entire bill and insert:

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



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29 association, or a privately owned vehicle belonging to a medical
30 staff physician or technician of a medical facility licensed by
31 the state, while responding to an emergency in the line of duty,
32 may display or use red warning signals ~~a red light~~ visible from
33 the front and from the rear of such vehicle, subject to the
34 following restrictions and conditions:

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

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

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

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

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

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

49 ~~(c)(g)~~ In order for an active volunteer firefighter to
50 display such red warning signals ~~a red light~~ on his or her
51 vehicle, the volunteer firefighter must first secure a written
52 permit from the chief executive officers of the firefighting
53 organization to use the red warning signals ~~light~~, and this
54 permit must be carried by the volunteer firefighter at all times
55 while the red warning signals ~~are light is~~ displayed.



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56 (2) It is unlawful for any person who is not an active
57 firefighter member of a regularly organized volunteer
58 firefighting company or association or a physician or technician
59 of the medical staff of a medical facility licensed by the state
60 to display on any motor vehicle owned by him or her, at any
61 time, any red warning signals ~~a red light~~ as described in
62 subsection (1).

63 (3) It is unlawful for an active volunteer firefighter to
64 operate any red warning signals ~~a red light~~ as authorized in
65 subsection (1), except while en route to the fire station for
66 the purpose of proceeding to the scene of a fire or other
67 emergency, or while at or en route to the scene of a fire or
68 other emergency, in the line of duty.

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

73 (5) A violation of this section is a nonmoving violation,
74 punishable as provided in chapter 318. In addition, any
75 volunteer firefighter shall be dismissed from membership in the
76 firefighting organization by the chief executive officers
77 thereof.

78 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.
79