

By Senator Dawson

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to funeral vehicle lights;
amending s. 316.2397, F.S.; authorizing
vehicles used by funeral homes or the clergy to
display flashing purple lights while in a
funeral procession; providing an effective
date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 316.2397, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

316.2397 Certain lights prohibited; exceptions.--

(3)(a) Vehicles of the fire department and fire patrol, including vehicles of volunteer firefighters as permitted under s. 316.2398, vehicles of medical staff physicians or technicians of medical facilities licensed by the state as authorized under s. 316.2398, ambulances as authorized under this chapter, and buses and taxicabs as authorized under s. 316.2399 are permitted to show or display red lights. Vehicles of the fire department, fire patrol, police vehicles, and such ambulances and emergency vehicles of municipal and county departments, public service corporations operated by private corporations, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as are designated or authorized by their respective department or the chief of police of an incorporated city or any sheriff of any county are hereby authorized to operate emergency lights and sirens in an emergency.

1 (b) Wreckers, mosquito control fog and spray vehicles,
2 and emergency vehicles of governmental departments or public
3 service corporations may show or display amber lights when in
4 actual operation or when a hazard exists provided they are not
5 used going to and from the scene of operation or hazard
6 without specific authorization of a law enforcement officer or
7 law enforcement agency. Wreckers may use amber rotating or
8 flashing lights while performing recoveries and loading on the
9 roadside day or night, and while towing a vehicle on wheel
10 lifts, slings, or under reach only if the operator of the
11 wrecker deems such lights necessary. A flatbed, car carrier,
12 or rollback may not use amber rotating or flashing lights when
13 hauling a vehicle on the bed unless it creates a hazard to
14 other motorists because of protruding objects. Further, escort
15 vehicles will be permitted to show or display amber lights
16 when in the actual process of escorting overdimensioned
17 equipment, material, or buildings as authorized by law.
18 Vehicles of private watch, guard, or patrol agencies licensed
19 pursuant to chapter 493 may show or display amber lights while
20 patrolling condominium, cooperative, and private residential
21 and business communities by which employed and which traverse
22 public streets or highways.

23 (c) Vehicles used by funeral homes or members of the
24 clergy may show or display purple flashing lights while in a
25 funeral procession.

26 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Authorizes vehicles used by funeral homes or the clergy
to display flashing purple lights while in a funeral
procession.