

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 545 Use of Lights on Motor Vehicles

SPONSOR(S): Garcia and others

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1030

	REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1)	Roads, Bridges & Ports Policy Committee	19 Y, 0 N	McVay	Miller
2)	Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee	7 Y, 2 N	Krol	Kramer
3)	Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee	14 Y, 0 N	Nelson	Hoagland
4)	Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council	14 Y, 0 N	Nelson	Tinker
5)				

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

This bill enables vehicles owned, operated or leased by a county correctional agency to show or display blue lights when responding to emergencies.

Current law permits police and vehicles owned, operated or leased by the Department of Corrections to show or display blue lights when responding to emergencies. Presently, the jail facilities for nine of Florida's 67 counties are not operated by sheriff's offices. Thus, the vehicles owned, operated or leased by these facilities are not authorized to display blue lights.

The bill has no fiscal impact on state and local government, and an effective date of July 1, 2009.

HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives:

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Section 316.2397(2), F.S., prohibits any vehicle or equipment, with the exception of police vehicles, to show or display blue lights. As currently written, the statute also allows vehicles owned, operated or leased by the Department of Corrections to show or display blue lights when responding to emergencies.

Presently, the jail facilities for nine¹ of Florida's 67 counties are not operated by sheriff's offices. These facilities are either operated privately or by county correctional agencies. Thus, the vehicles owned, operated or leased by these facilities are not authorized to display blue lights under the current statute.

Effect of Proposed Changes

HB 545 enables vehicles owned, operated or leased by a county correctional agency to show or display blue lights when responding to emergencies.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2009.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends s. 316.2397(2), F.S., relating to the prohibition of certain lights on vehicles.

Section 2: Provides an effective date.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

¹ County-operated detention facilities are located in Jackson County, Oskaloosa County, Miami-Dade County, Orange County, Osceola County, Volusia County, and Walton County. Privately-operated detention facilities are located in Citrus County and Hernando County.

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

There may be minimal replacement costs for vehicles owned, operated or leased by any county correctional agency to install the blue color lights, if they so choose. The installation of blue lights on these vehicles is not mandatory.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable because the bill does not appear to: require counties or cities to spend funds or take action requiring the expenditure of funds; reduce the authority that cities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate; or reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with cities or counties.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.