

CS/HB 1113

2024

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the use of lights and sirens on
3 emergency vehicles; amending s. 316.2397, F.S.;
4 authorizing certain vehicles transporting organs or
5 surgical teams for organ recovery and transplant to
6 show or display red or red and white lights and
7 operate sirens under certain circumstances; requiring
8 such vehicles to be clearly marked; amending s.
9 316.271, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made
10 by the act; providing an effective date.

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

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

16 316.2397 Certain lights prohibited; exceptions.—

17 (3)(a) Vehicles of the fire department and fire patrol,
18 including vehicles of volunteer firefighters as permitted under
19 s. 316.2398, may show or display red or red and white lights.

20 (b) Vehicles of medical staff physicians or technicians of
21 medical facilities licensed by the state or of volunteer
22 ambulance services as authorized under s. 316.2398, ambulances
23 as authorized under this chapter, and buses and taxicabs as
24 authorized under s. 316.2399 may show or display red lights.

25 (c) Vehicles of the fire department, fire patrol, police

26 | vehicles, and such ambulances and emergency vehicles of
 27 | municipal and county departments, volunteer ambulance services,
 28 | public service corporations operated by private corporations,
 29 | the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of
 30 | Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation, the
 31 | Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the
 32 | Department of Corrections as are designated or authorized by
 33 | their respective department or the chief of police of an
 34 | incorporated city or any sheriff of any county may operate
 35 | emergency lights and sirens in an emergency.

36 | (d) Transport vehicles designated by an organ procurement
 37 | organization or transplant center, or a contracted service
 38 | provider of such organization or center, for the sole purpose of
 39 | transporting organs or surgical teams for organ recovery and
 40 | transplant may show or display red or red and white lights and
 41 | operate sirens while en route to a hospital, airport, or other
 42 | necessary location. A vehicle operating lights or sirens
 43 | pursuant to this paragraph must be clearly marked to indicate
 44 | its authorized purpose.

45 | (e) Wreckers, mosquito control fog and spray vehicles, and
 46 | emergency vehicles of governmental departments or public service
 47 | corporations may show or display amber lights when in actual
 48 | operation or when a hazard exists provided they are not used
 49 | going to and from the scene of operation or hazard without
 50 | specific authorization of a law enforcement officer or law

51 enforcement agency. Wreckers must use amber rotating or flashing
52 lights while performing recoveries and loading on the roadside
53 day or night, and may use such lights while towing a vehicle on
54 wheel lifts, slings, or under reach if the operator of the
55 wrecker deems such lights necessary. A flatbed, car carrier, or
56 rollback may not use amber rotating or flashing lights when
57 hauling a vehicle on the bed unless it creates a hazard to other
58 motorists because of protruding objects. Further, escort
59 vehicles may show or display amber lights when in the actual
60 process of escorting oversized equipment, material, or
61 buildings as authorized by law.

62 (f) Vehicles owned or leased by private security agencies
63 may show or display green and amber lights, with either color
64 being no greater than 50 percent of the lights displayed, while
65 the security personnel are engaged in security duties on private
66 or public property.

67 Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 316.271, Florida
68 Statutes, is amended to read:

69 316.271 Horns and warning devices.—

70 (4) No vehicle shall be equipped with, nor shall any
71 person use upon a vehicle, any siren, whistle, or bell, except
72 as otherwise permitted in this section or s. 316.2397.

73 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.