

By Senator Bradley

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to lights displayed on fire department
3 vehicles; amending s. 316.2397, F.S.; authorizing that
4 certain government-owned fire department vehicles may
5 show or display blue lights under certain
6 circumstances; making technical changes; providing an
7 effective date.

8
9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

10
11 Section 1. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 316.2397,
12 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

13 316.2397 Certain lights prohibited; exceptions.—

14 (2) It is expressly prohibited for any vehicle or equipment
15 to show or display blue lights, except the following:

16 (a) Police vehicles;

17 (b) Government-owned fire department vehicles, except
18 vehicles of a fire patrol or volunteer fire department, with a
19 gross vehicle weight rating of more than 24,000 pounds, if
20 authorized in writing by the fire chief of the government agency
21 and if shown or displayed only on the rear of such vehicles; and
22 ~~, to show or display blue lights. However,~~

23 (c) Vehicles owned, operated, or leased by the Department
24 of Corrections or any county correctional agency ~~may show or~~
25 ~~display blue lights~~ when responding to emergencies.

26 (3) (a) Vehicles of the fire department and fire patrol,
27 including vehicles of volunteer firefighters as permitted under
28 s. 316.2398, may show or display red or red and white lights.
29 However, blue lights may only be shown or displayed on fire

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30 department vehicles pursuant to paragraph (2) (b).

31 (b) Vehicles of medical staff physicians or technicians of
32 medical facilities licensed by the state or of volunteer
33 ambulance services as authorized under s. 316.2398, ambulances
34 as authorized under this chapter, and buses and taxicabs as
35 authorized under s. 316.2399 may show or display red lights.

36 (c) Vehicles of the fire department and, fire patrol,
37 police vehicles, and such ambulances and emergency vehicles of
38 municipal and county departments, volunteer ambulance services,
39 public service corporations operated by private corporations,
40 the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of
41 Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation, the
42 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the
43 Department of Corrections as are designated or authorized by
44 their respective department or the chief of police of an
45 incorporated city or any sheriff of any county may operate
46 emergency lights and sirens in an emergency.

47 (d) Wreckers, mosquito control fog and spray vehicles, and
48 emergency vehicles of governmental departments or public service
49 corporations may show or display amber lights when in actual
50 operation or when a hazard exists provided they are not used
51 going to and from the scene of operation or hazard without
52 specific authorization of a law enforcement officer or law
53 enforcement agency. Wreckers must use amber rotating or flashing
54 lights while performing recoveries and loading on the roadside
55 day or night, and may use such lights while towing a vehicle on
56 wheel lifts, slings, or under reach if the operator of the
57 wrecker deems such lights necessary. A flatbed, car carrier, or
58 rollback may not use amber rotating or flashing lights when

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59 hauling a vehicle on the bed unless it creates a hazard to other
60 motorists because of protruding objects. Further, escort
61 vehicles may show or display amber lights when in the actual
62 process of escorting oversized equipment, material, or
63 buildings as authorized by law.

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

69 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.