

By Senator Burton

12-00927B-24

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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 that certain vehicles transporting organs  
5           and surgical teams for organ recovery and transplant  
6           may operate emergency lights and sirens while en route  
7           to a hospital, an airport, or other designated  
8           location; providing requirements for operators of such  
9           vehicles; providing an effective date.

10  
11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

15           316.2397 Certain lights prohibited; exceptions.—

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

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

24           (c) Vehicles of the fire department, fire patrol, police  
25           vehicles, and such ambulances and emergency vehicles of  
26           municipal and county departments, volunteer ambulance services,  
27           public service corporations operated by private corporations,  
28           the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of  
29           Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation, the

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30 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the  
31 Department of Corrections as are designated or authorized by  
32 their respective department or the chief of police of an  
33 incorporated city or any sheriff of any county may operate  
34 emergency lights and sirens in an emergency.

35 (d) Vehicles designated as emergency vehicles for the sole  
36 purpose of transporting organs and surgical teams for organ  
37 recovery and transplant may operate emergency lights and sirens  
38 while en route to a hospital, an airport, or other designated  
39 location. Such vehicles include, but are not limited to,  
40 dedicated and marked vehicles operated by organ procurement  
41 organizations, transplant centers, or their contracted service  
42 providers. Operators of such emergency vehicles must be licensed  
43 as a provider of prehospital or interfacility advanced life  
44 support services or basic life support transportation services  
45 pursuant to s. 401.25 and licensed to drive such emergency  
46 vehicles pursuant to the requirements of s. 401.281.

47 (e) 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 (f) 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.