

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to lights displayed on fire department  
 3           and fire patrol vehicles; amending s. 316.2397, F.S.;  
 4           authorizing such vehicles to show or display blue  
 5           lights; amending ss. 316.2398 and 322.01, F.S.;  
 6           conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
 7           providing an effective date.

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

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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  
 15   equipment, except police, fire department, and fire patrol  
 16   vehicles, to show or display blue lights. However, vehicles  
 17   owned, operated, or leased by the Department of Corrections or  
 18   any county correctional agency may show or display blue lights  
 19   when responding to emergencies.

20           (3)   Vehicles of the fire department and fire patrol,  
 21   ~~including vehicles of volunteer firefighters~~ as permitted under  
 22   s. 316.2398, may show or display red, blue, ~~or red~~ and white  
 23   lights.

24           (a)   Vehicles of volunteer firefighters, medical staff  
 25   physicians or technicians of medical facilities licensed by the

26 | state or of volunteer ambulance services as authorized under s.  
27 | 316.2398, ambulances as authorized under this chapter, and buses  
28 | and taxicabs as authorized under s. 316.2399 may show or display  
29 | red lights.

30 |       (b) Vehicles of the fire department ~~and~~ fire patrol,  
31 | police vehicles, and such ambulances and emergency vehicles of  
32 | municipal and county departments, volunteer ambulance services,  
33 | public service corporations operated by private corporations,  
34 | the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of  
35 | Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation, the  
36 | Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the  
37 | Department of Corrections as are designated or authorized by  
38 | their respective department or the chief of police of an  
39 | incorporated city or any sheriff of any county may operate  
40 | emergency lights and sirens in an emergency.

41 |       (c) Wreckers, mosquito control fog and spray vehicles, and  
42 | emergency vehicles of governmental departments or public service  
43 | corporations may show or display amber lights when in actual  
44 | operation or when a hazard exists provided they are not used  
45 | going to and from the scene of operation or hazard without  
46 | specific authorization of a law enforcement officer or law  
47 | enforcement agency. Wreckers must use amber rotating or flashing  
48 | lights while performing recoveries and loading on the roadside  
49 | day or night, and may use such lights while towing a vehicle on  
50 | wheel lifts, slings, or under reach if the operator of the

51 wrecker deems such lights necessary. A flatbed, car carrier, or  
 52 rollback may not use amber rotating or flashing lights when  
 53 hauling a vehicle on the bed unless it creates a hazard to other  
 54 motorists because of protruding objects. Further, escort  
 55 vehicles may show or display amber lights when in the actual  
 56 process of escorting overdimensioned equipment, material, or  
 57 buildings as authorized by law.

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

63 Section 2. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section  
 64 316.2398, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

65 316.2398 Display or use of red, blue, ~~or red~~ and white  
 66 warning signals; motor vehicles of volunteer firefighters or  
 67 medical staff.—

68 (1) A privately owned vehicle belonging to an active  
 69 firefighter member of a regularly organized volunteer  
 70 firefighting company or association, while en route to the fire  
 71 station for the purpose of proceeding to the scene of a fire or  
 72 other emergency or while en route to the scene of a fire or  
 73 other emergency in the line of duty as an active firefighter  
 74 member of a regularly organized firefighting company or  
 75 association, may display or use red, blue, ~~or red~~ and white

76 warning signals. A privately owned vehicle belonging to a  
77 medical staff physician or technician of a medical facility  
78 licensed by the state or of a volunteer ambulance service, while  
79 responding to an emergency in the line of duty, may display or  
80 use red warning signals. Warning signals must be visible from  
81 the front and from the rear of such vehicle, subject to the  
82 following restrictions and conditions:

83 (a) No more than two red, blue, ~~or red~~ and white warning  
84 signals may be displayed.

85 (b) No inscription of any kind may appear across the face  
86 of the lens of the red, blue, ~~or red~~ and white warning signal.

87 (c) In order for an active volunteer firefighter to  
88 display such red, blue, ~~or red~~ and white warning signals on his  
89 or her vehicle, the volunteer firefighter must first secure a  
90 written permit from the chief executive officers of the  
91 firefighting organization to use the red, blue, ~~or red~~ and white  
92 warning signals, and this permit must be carried by the  
93 volunteer firefighter at all times while the red, blue, ~~or red~~  
94 and white warning signals are displayed.

95 (d) An emergency medical technician, doctor, or paramedic  
96 who is using his or her personal vehicle with a red light to  
97 respond to an emergency call must have completed a 16-hour  
98 emergency vehicle operator course.

99 (2) A person who is not an active firefighter member of a  
100 regularly organized volunteer firefighting company or

101 association or a physician or technician of the medical staff of  
 102 a medical facility licensed by the state or of a volunteer  
 103 ambulance service may not display on any motor vehicle owned by  
 104 him or her, at any time, any red, blue, ~~or red~~ and white warning  
 105 signals as described in subsection (1).

106 (3) An active volunteer firefighter may not operate any  
 107 red, blue, ~~or red~~ and white warning signals as authorized in  
 108 subsection (1), except while en route to the fire station for  
 109 the purpose of proceeding to the scene of a fire or other  
 110 emergency, or while at or en route to the scene of a fire or  
 111 other emergency, in the line of duty.

112 Section 3. Subsection (4) of section 322.01, Florida  
 113 Statutes, is amended to read:

114 322.01 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

115 (4) "Authorized emergency vehicle" means a vehicle that is  
 116 equipped with extraordinary audible and visual warning devices,  
 117 that is authorized by s. 316.2397 to display red, ~~red~~ and white,  
 118 and ~~or~~ blue lights, and that is on call to respond to  
 119 emergencies. The term includes, but is not limited to,  
 120 ambulances, law enforcement vehicles, fire trucks, and other  
 121 rescue vehicles. The term does not include wreckers, utility  
 122 trucks, or other vehicles that are used only incidentally for  
 123 emergency purposes.

124 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.