

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to lights displayed on police
 3 equipment and fire department vehicles; amending s.
 4 316.2397, F.S.; authorizing police equipment and
 5 certain government-owned fire department vehicles to
 6 show or display blue lights; authorizing vehicles of
 7 volunteer fire departments and volunteer firefighters
 8 to show or display red lights; amending s. 322.01,
 9 F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the
 10 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. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 316.2397,
 15 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

16 316.2397 Certain lights prohibited; exceptions.—

17 (2) It is expressly prohibited for any vehicle or
 18 equipment, except:

19 (a) Police vehicles and equipment; and

20 (b) Government-owned fire department vehicles with a gross
 21 vehicle weight rating of more than 24,000 pounds, if authorized
 22 in writing by the fire chief of the government agency,

23
 24 to show or display blue lights. However, vehicles owned,
 25 operated, or leased by the Department of Corrections or any

26 county correctional agency may show or display blue lights when
 27 responding to emergencies.

28 (3) Vehicles of the fire department ~~and fire patrol,~~
 29 ~~including vehicles of volunteer firefighters as permitted under~~
 30 ~~s. 316.2398,~~ may show or display red, blue, ~~or red~~ and white
 31 lights. However, blue lights may only be shown or displayed on
 32 the rear of vehicles described in paragraph (2) (b).

33 (a) Vehicles of volunteer fire departments and volunteer
 34 firefighters, medical staff physicians or technicians of medical
 35 facilities licensed by the state or of volunteer ambulance
 36 services as authorized under s. 316.2398, ambulances as
 37 authorized under this chapter, and buses and taxicabs as
 38 authorized under s. 316.2399 may show or display red lights.

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

50 (c) Wreckers, mosquito control fog and spray vehicles, and

HB 463

2024

51 emergency vehicles of governmental departments or public service
52 corporations may show or display amber lights when in actual
53 operation or when a hazard exists provided they are not used
54 going to and from the scene of operation or hazard without
55 specific authorization of a law enforcement officer or law
56 enforcement agency. Wreckers must use amber rotating or flashing
57 lights while performing recoveries and loading on the roadside
58 day or night, and may use such lights while towing a vehicle on
59 wheel lifts, slings, or under reach if the operator of the
60 wrecker deems such lights necessary. A flatbed, car carrier, or
61 rollback may not use amber rotating or flashing lights when
62 hauling a vehicle on the bed unless it creates a hazard to other
63 motorists because of protruding objects. Further, escort
64 vehicles may show or display amber lights when in the actual
65 process of escorting oversized equipment, material, or
66 buildings as authorized by law.

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

72 Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 322.01, Florida
73 Statutes, is amended to read:

74 322.01 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

75 (4) "Authorized emergency vehicle" means a vehicle that is

HB 463

2024

76 | equipped with extraordinary audible and visual warning devices,
77 | that is authorized by s. 316.2397 to display red, ~~red~~ and white,
78 | and ~~or~~ blue lights, and that is on call to respond to
79 | emergencies. The term includes, but is not limited to,
80 | ambulances, law enforcement vehicles, fire trucks, and other
81 | rescue vehicles. The term does not include wreckers, utility
82 | trucks, or other vehicles that are used only incidentally for
83 | emergency purposes.

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