

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to emergency services; amending s.  
 3           316.072, F.S.; authorizing ambulance drivers to use  
 4           red lights on a privately owned vehicle in certain  
 5           circumstances; amending s. 316.2397, F.S.; expanding  
 6           an exception to the prohibition on using red lights to  
 7           include ambulance drivers; amending s. 316.2398, F.S.;  
 8           authorizing ambulance drivers to use red warning  
 9           signals in specified circumstances; revising  
 10          restrictions on warning signals; authorizing ambulance  
 11          drivers to use red lights on their personal vehicle in  
 12          certain circumstances; expanding an exception of the  
 13          use of red lights on a personal vehicle to include  
 14          ambulance drivers; providing a limitation as to when  
 15          ambulance drivers can use certain warning signals;  
 16          amending s. 401.25, F.S.; revising requirements for  
 17          active first responder agencies to receive a certain  
 18          exemption; removing a limitation on the number of  
 19          exemptions that may be granted; providing an effective  
 20          date.

21  
 22   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

23  
 24           **Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section**  
 25           **316.072, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

26 | 316.072 Obedience to and effect of traffic laws.—

27 | (5) AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLES.—

28 | (a)1. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, when  
 29 | responding to an emergency call; when transporting organs or  
 30 | surgical teams for organ donation or transplant while en route  
 31 | to a hospital, an airport, or other designated location; when in  
 32 | the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law; or  
 33 | when responding to a fire alarm, but not upon returning from a  
 34 | fire;

35 | 2. A medical staff physician or technician of a medical  
 36 | facility licensed by the state or of a volunteer ambulance  
 37 | service or an ambulance driver, as defined in s. 401.23, when  
 38 | responding to an emergency in the line of duty in his or her  
 39 | privately owned vehicle, using red lights as authorized in s.  
 40 | 316.2398; or

41 | 3. The driver of an authorized law enforcement vehicle,  
 42 | when conducting a nonemergency escort, to warn the public of an  
 43 | approaching motorcade;

44 |  
 45 | may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, but  
 46 | subject to the conditions herein stated.

47 | **Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section**  
 48 | **316.2397, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

49 | 316.2397 Certain lights prohibited; exceptions.—

50 | (3)

51 (b) Vehicles of medical staff physicians or technicians of  
52 medical facilities licensed by the state or of volunteer  
53 ambulance services as authorized under s. 316.2398;~~;~~ ambulances  
54 as authorized under this chapter; ambulance drivers, as defined  
55 in s. 401.23;~~;~~ and buses and taxicabs as authorized under s.  
56 316.2399 may show or display red lights.

57 **Section 3. Subsections (1), (2), and (4) of section**  
58 **316.2398, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

59 316.2398 Display or use of red or red and white warning  
60 signals; motor vehicles of volunteer firefighters or medical  
61 staff.—

62 (1) A privately owned vehicle belonging to an active  
63 firefighter member of a regularly organized volunteer  
64 firefighting company or association, while en route to the fire  
65 station for the purpose of proceeding to the scene of a fire or  
66 other emergency or while en route to the scene of a fire or  
67 other emergency in the line of duty as an active firefighter  
68 member of a regularly organized firefighting company or  
69 association, may display or use red or red and white warning  
70 signals. A privately owned vehicle belonging to a medical staff  
71 physician or technician of a medical facility licensed by the  
72 state or of a volunteer ambulance service or an ambulance  
73 driver, as defined in s. 401.23, while responding to an  
74 emergency in the line of duty, may display or use red warning  
75 signals. An organ transport vehicle, while transporting organs

76 or surgical teams for organ donation or transplant while en  
 77 route to a hospital, an airport, or other designated location,  
 78 may display or use red warning signals. Warning signals must be  
 79 visible from the front and from the rear of such vehicle,  
 80 subject to the following restrictions and conditions:

81 ~~(a) No more than two red or red and white warning signals~~  
 82 ~~may be displayed.~~

83 (a)~~(b)~~ No inscription of any kind may appear across the  
 84 face of the lens of the red or red and white warning signal.

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

93 (c)~~(d)~~ An emergency medical technician, a doctor, a ~~or~~  
 94 paramedic, or an ambulance driver, as defined in s. 401.23, who  
 95 is using his or her personal vehicle with a red light to respond  
 96 to an emergency call must have completed a 16-hour emergency  
 97 vehicle operator course.

98 (2) A person who is not an active firefighter member of a  
 99 regularly organized volunteer firefighting company or  
 100 association or a physician or technician of the medical staff of

101 a medical facility licensed by the state or of a volunteer  
 102 ambulance service or an ambulance driver, as defined in s.  
 103 401.23, may not display on any motor vehicle owned by him or  
 104 her, at any time, any red or red and white warning signals as  
 105 described in subsection (1).

106 (4) A physician or technician of the medical staff of a  
 107 medical facility licensed by the state or of a volunteer  
 108 ambulance service or an ambulance driver, as defined in s.  
 109 401.23, may not operate any red warning signals as authorized in  
 110 subsection (1), except when responding to an emergency in the  
 111 line of duty.

112 **Section 4. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section**  
 113 **401.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

114 401.25 Licensure as a basic life support or an advanced  
 115 life support service.—

116 (2) The department shall issue a license for operation to  
 117 any applicant who complies with the following requirements:

118 (d) The applicant has obtained a certificate of public  
 119 convenience and necessity from each county in which the  
 120 applicant will operate. In issuing the certificate of public  
 121 convenience and necessity, the governing body of each county  
 122 shall consider the recommendations of municipalities within its  
 123 jurisdiction. An applicant that is an active first responder  
 124 agency is exempt from this requirement if it:

- 125 1. Is a faith-based, not-for-profit charitable corporation

126 registered under chapter 617 which has been responding to  
127 medical emergencies in this state for at least 10 consecutive  
128 years.

129 2. Is not a parent, subsidiary, or affiliate of, or  
130 related to, any for-profit entity.

131 3. Provides basic life support services or advanced life  
132 support services solely through at least 50 unpaid licensed  
133 emergency medical technician or paramedic volunteers.

134 ~~4. Is not operating for pecuniary profit or financial~~  
135 ~~gain.~~

136 4.5. Does not distribute to or inure to the benefit of its  
137 directors, members, or officers any part of its assets or  
138 income.

139 ~~6. Does not receive any government funding. However, the~~  
140 ~~volunteer ambulance service may receive funding from specialty~~  
141 ~~license plate proceeds.~~

142 5.7. Has never had a license denied, revoked, or  
143 suspended.

144 6.8. Provides services at no cost to the patient ~~free of~~  
145 ~~charge.~~

146 7.9. As part of its application for licensure, provides to  
147 the department a management plan that includes a training  
148 program, dispatch protocols, a complaint management system, an  
149 accident or injury handling system, a quality assurance program,  
150 and proof of adequate insurance coverage to meet state or county

151 insurance requirements, whichever requirements are greater.

152 8.10. Provides a disclaimer on all written materials that  
153 the volunteer ambulance service is not associated with the  
154 state's 911 system.

155

156 ~~The exemption under this paragraph may be granted to no more~~  
157 ~~than four counties.~~ This exemption notwithstanding, an applicant  
158 is not exempted from and must comply with all other requirements  
159 for licensure. An applicant must also take all reasonable  
160 efforts to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the  
161 emergency medical services licensee within whose jurisdiction  
162 the applicant will provide services in order to facilitate  
163 communications and coordinate emergency services for situations  
164 beyond the scope of the applicant's capacity and for situations  
165 of advanced life support that are deemed priority 1 or priority  
166 2 emergencies.

167 **Section 5.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.