

CHAPTER 2024-29

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 463

An act relating to lights displayed on fire department vehicles; amending s. 316.2397, F.S.; authorizing certain government-owned fire department vehicles to show or display blue lights under certain circumstances; providing an effective date.

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

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

316.2397 Certain lights prohibited; exceptions.—

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

(a) Police vehicles;

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

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

(3)(a) Vehicles of the fire department and fire patrol, including vehicles of volunteer firefighters as permitted under s. 316.2398, may show or display red or red and white lights. However, blue lights may be shown or displayed on fire department vehicles in accordance with paragraph (2)(b).

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

~~(c) Vehicles of the fire department and~~ fire patrol, police vehicles, and such ambulances and emergency vehicles of municipal and county departments, volunteer ambulance services, public service corporations operated by private corporations, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the Department of Corrections as are designated or authorized by their respective department or the chief of police of an incorporated city or any

sheriff of any county may operate emergency lights and sirens in an emergency.

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor March 22, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 22, 2024.