

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; revising provisions relating to the authorization of certain emergency vehicles; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Under existing law, the Nevada Highway Patrol Division is the only division of the Department of Public Safety expressly authorized to obtain permits from the Department of Motor Vehicles to own and operate authorized emergency vehicles. (NRS 484A.480, 484A.490) This bill expressly authorizes the issuance of such permits for vehicles owned and operated by: (1) the Capitol Police Division, the Investigation Division, the State Fire Marshal Division, the Training Division and the Office of the Director of the Department of Public Safety; and (2) the Section for the Control of Emissions From Vehicles and the Enforcement of Matters Related to the Use of Special Fuel in the Department of Motor Vehicles. This bill also transfers from the Department of Motor Vehicles to the Department of Public Safety the statutory authority to establish standards for certain equipment for emergency vehicles and to issue permits for authorized emergency vehicles.

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 484A.480 is hereby amended to read as follows:

484A.480 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 484A.490, authorized emergency vehicles are vehicles publicly owned and operated in the performance of the duty of:

(a) A police or fire department.

(b) A sheriff’s office.

(c) ~~[(The Nevada Highway Patrol.)~~ *The Capitol Police Division, the Investigation Division, the Nevada Highway Patrol Division, the State Fire Marshal Division, the Training Division and the Office of the Director of the Department of Public Safety.*

(d) The Division of Forestry of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in responding to a fire.

(e) *The Section for the Control of Emissions From Vehicles and the Enforcement of Matters Related to the Use of Special Fuel in the Department of Motor Vehicles.*

(f) A public ambulance agency.

~~[(f)]~~ (g) A public lifeguard or lifesaving agency.

2. A vehicle publicly maintained in whole or in part by the State, or by a city or county, and privately owned and operated by a



regularly salaried member of a police department, sheriff's office or traffic law enforcement department, is an authorized emergency vehicle if:

(a) The vehicle has a permit, pursuant to NRS 484A.490, from the Department **of Public Safety**;

(b) The person operates the vehicle in responding to emergency calls or fire alarms, or at the request of the Nevada Highway Patrol or in the pursuit of actual or suspected violators of the law; and

(c) The State, county or city does not furnish a publicly owned vehicle for the purposes stated in paragraph (b).

3. Every authorized emergency vehicle must be equipped with at least one flashing red warning lamp visible from the front and a siren for use as provided in chapters 484A to 484E, inclusive, of NRS, which lamp and siren must be in compliance with standards approved by the Department **of Public Safety**. In addition, an authorized emergency vehicle may display revolving, flashing or steady red or blue warning lights to the front, sides or rear of the vehicle.

4. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a system or device that causes the upper-beam headlamps of the vehicle to continue to flash alternately while the system or device is activated. The driver of a vehicle that is so equipped may use the system or device when responding to an emergency call or fire alarm, while escorting a funeral procession, or when in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law. As used in this subsection, "upper-beam headlamp" means a headlamp or that part of a headlamp which projects a distribution of light or composite beam meeting the requirements of subsection 1 of NRS 484D.210.

5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, a person shall not operate a motor vehicle with any system or device that causes the headlamps of the vehicle to continue to flash alternately or simultaneously while the system or device is activated. This subsection does not prohibit the operation of a motorcycle equipped with any system or device that modulates the intensity of light produced by the headlamp of the motorcycle, if the system or device is used only during daylight hours and conforms to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 571.108.

6. A person shall not operate a vehicle with any lamp or device displaying a red light visible from directly in front of the center of the vehicle except an authorized emergency vehicle, a school bus or an official vehicle of a regulatory agency.



7. A person shall not operate a vehicle with any lamp or device displaying a blue light, except a motorcycle pursuant to NRS 486.261 or an authorized emergency vehicle.

Sec. 2. NRS 484A.490 is hereby amended to read as follows:

484A.490 1. The Department *of Public Safety* may issue permits for authorized emergency vehicles to vehicles required to be operated primarily for the immediate preservation of life or property or for the apprehension of violators of the law. The permits must not be issued to vehicles when there are available comparable services provided by agencies referred to in NRS 484A.480.

2. The issuance of the permits to vehicles under this section must be limited to:

- (a) Agencies designated in NRS 484A.480;
- (b) Vehicles owned or operated by an agency of the United States engaged primarily in law enforcement work;
- (c) Ambulances designed and operated exclusively as such; and
- (d) Supervisory vehicles which are:
 - (1) Marked and used to coordinate and direct the response of ambulances to emergencies;
 - (2) Privately owned by a person licensed to operate an ambulance; and
 - (3) Operated under contract with a local governmental agency and at the request of its law enforcement agency or fire department.

3. The following are not emergency vehicles and must not be permitted to operate as such:

- (a) Tow cars;
- (b) Vehicles used by public utilities;
- (c) Vehicles used in merchant patrols;
- (d) Vehicles used in private escort service;
- (e) Privately owned vehicles of volunteer firefighters;
- (f) Privately owned vehicles of reserve members of a police department or a sheriff's office; and
- (g) Vehicles of private detectives.

Sec. 3. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

