

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 30—COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY)

PREFILED DECEMBER 14, 2010

Referred to Committee on Transportation

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to the authorization of certain emergency vehicles. (BDR 43-457)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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

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:

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

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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 484A.480 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:
3 484A.480 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS
4 484A.490, authorized emergency vehicles are vehicles publicly
5 owned and operated in the performance of the duty of:



- 1 (a) A police or fire department.
2 (b) A sheriff's office.
3 (c) ~~[(The Nevada Highway Patrol.)]~~ *The Capitol Police Division,*
4 *the Investigation Division, the Nevada Highway Patrol Division,*
5 *the State Fire Marshal Division, the Training Division and the*
6 *Office of the Director of the Department of Public Safety.*
7 (d) The Division of Forestry of the State Department of
8 Conservation and Natural Resources in responding to a fire.
9 (e) *The Section for the Control of Emissions From Vehicles*
10 *and the Enforcement of Matters Related to the Use of Special Fuel*
11 *in the Department of Motor Vehicles.*
12 (f) A public ambulance agency.
13 ~~[(g)]~~ (g) A public lifeguard or lifesaving agency.
14 2. A vehicle publicly maintained in whole or in part by the
15 State, or by a city or county, and privately owned and operated by a
16 regularly salaried member of a police department, sheriff's office or
17 traffic law enforcement department, is an authorized emergency
18 vehicle if:
19 (a) The vehicle has a permit, pursuant to NRS 484A.490, from
20 the Department ~~[(g)]~~ *of Public Safety;*
21 (b) The person operates the vehicle in responding to emergency
22 calls or fire alarms, or at the request of the Nevada Highway Patrol
23 or in the pursuit of actual or suspected violators of the law; and
24 (c) The State, county or city does not furnish a publicly owned
25 vehicle for the purposes stated in paragraph (b).
26 3. Every authorized emergency vehicle must be equipped with
27 at least one flashing red warning lamp visible from the front and a
28 siren for use as provided in chapters 484A to 484E, inclusive, of
29 NRS, which lamp and siren must be in compliance with standards
30 approved by the Department ~~[(g)]~~ *of Public Safety.* In addition, an
31 authorized emergency vehicle may display revolving, flashing or
32 steady red or blue warning lights to the front, sides or rear of the
33 vehicle.
34 4. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a
35 system or device that causes the upper-beam headlamps of the
36 vehicle to continue to flash alternately while the system or device is
37 activated. The driver of a vehicle that is so equipped may use the
38 system or device when responding to an emergency call or fire
39 alarm, while escorting a funeral procession, or when in pursuit of an
40 actual or suspected violator of the law. As used in this subsection,
41 "upper-beam headlamp" means a headlamp or that part of a
42 headlamp which projects a distribution of light or composite beam
43 meeting the requirements of subsection 1 of NRS 484D.210.
44 5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, a person shall
45 not operate a motor vehicle with any system or device that causes



1 the headlamps of the vehicle to continue to flash alternately or
2 simultaneously while the system or device is activated. This
3 subsection does not prohibit the operation of a motorcycle equipped
4 with any system or device that modulates the intensity of light
5 produced by the headlamp of the motorcycle, if the system or device
6 is used only during daylight hours and conforms to the requirements
7 of 49 C.F.R. § 571.108.

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

12 7. A person shall not operate a vehicle with any lamp or device
13 displaying a blue light, except a motorcycle pursuant to NRS
14 486.261 or an authorized emergency vehicle.

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

16 484A.490 1. The Department *of Public Safety* may issue
17 permits for authorized emergency vehicles to vehicles required to be
18 operated primarily for the immediate preservation of life or property
19 or for the apprehension of violators of the law. The permits must not
20 be issued to vehicles when there are available comparable services
21 provided by agencies referred to in NRS 484A.480.

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

24 (a) Agencies designated in NRS 484A.480;

25 (b) Vehicles owned or operated by an agency of the United
26 States engaged primarily in law enforcement work;

27 (c) Ambulances designed and operated exclusively as such; and

28 (d) Supervisory vehicles which are:

29 (1) Marked and used to coordinate and direct the response of
30 ambulances to emergencies;

31 (2) Privately owned by a person licensed to operate an
32 ambulance; and

33 (3) Operated under contract with a local governmental
34 agency and at the request of its law enforcement agency or fire
35 department.

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

38 (a) Tow cars;

39 (b) Vehicles used by public utilities;

40 (c) Vehicles used in merchant patrols;

41 (d) Vehicles used in private escort service;

42 (e) Privately owned vehicles of volunteer firefighters;

43 (f) Privately owned vehicles of reserve members of a police
44 department or a sheriff's office; and

45 (g) Vehicles of private detectives.



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

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