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PREPARED BY  
RESEARCH DIVISION  
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU  
Nonpartisan Staff of the Nevada State Legislature

# WORK SESSION

## Assembly Committee on Transportation

March 25, 2003

Assembly Bill 77

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION 1086  
DATE: 3/25/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT H  
SUBMITTED BY: LCB

**WORK SESSION**

**ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

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# WORK SESSION

## Assembly Committee on Transportation

March 25, 2003

The following measure will be considered for action by the Assembly Committee on Transportation during a work session on Thursday, March 25, 2003:

### **ASSEMBLY BILL 77**

#### **Authorizes certain inserts in tail lamps on motorcycles.**

Sponsored by: Angle, Gustavson, Andonov, Beers, Brown, Claborn, Collins, Geddes, Gibbons, Goicoechea, Grady, Griffin, Hardy, Hettrick, Knecht, Mabey, McCleary, Mortenson, Ohrenschall, Sherer, Weber, Shaffer

Dates Heard: March 13, 2003—NACT

#### **Discussion**

Assembly Bill 77 provides that the tail lamp on a motorcycle may contain a blue or purple insert that does not exceed one inch in diameter.

Testimony indicated that Minnesota and Washington allow a blue light of up to one-inch in diameter in the taillight of a motorcycle. Testimony also indicated that allowing a blue insert in the tail lamp of a motorcycle improves a motorist's ability to see a motorcycle in stormy weather.

#### **Proposed Conceptual Amendments**

Assemblywoman Chowning proposes the following amendment:

1. On page 2, subsection 3(d) of section 2, line 30, delete "or purple."
2. On page 4, subsection 3 of section 4, line 6-7, delete "or purple."

**TAB A** contains letters of support from the Washoe County Police Department and the Las Vegas. A letter in opposition submitted by the Nevada Highway Patrol, Department of Public Safety, is contained under **TAB B**.

H 306

# WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF

**Dennis Balaam**  
Sheriff



*Dedicated Service in Partnership with our Community*

*Marji*

March 24, 2003

**Assemblywoman Vonne Chowning, Chairwoman  
Assembly Standing Committee on Transportation**

**RE: Assembly Bill 77**

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office is in support of Assembly Bill 77 sponsored by Assemblywoman Sharron Angle. It is our opinion that the presence of a blue or purple insert in the taillight of a motorcycle will not create any serious problems in the enforcement of laws.

Feel free to contact our lobbyist Jim Nadeau, if you have any questions regarding this issue. We stand ready to assist you or your committee.

Sincerely,

*Dennis Balaam*  
**DENNIS BALAAM, SHERIFF \***

March 24, 2003

Vonne Chowning, Chairwoman  
Assembly Transportation Committee  
Nevada State legislature

Dear Chairwoman Chowning

This letter is regarding Assembly Bill 77 addressing the placement of the small blue dot on the taillight assembly of motorcycles as a safety issue. I have reviewed the bill and support the intent as long as it is strictly for motorcycles and remains the small dot described.

Sincerely,

Stan Olsen, Lieutenant

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
NEVADA SHERIFFS' AND CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

H 5 of 6

Kenny C. Guinn  
Governor



Richard Kirkland  
Director

Col. David S. Hosmer  
Chief  
Nevada Highway Patrol

## Nevada Highway Patrol

555 Wright Way  
Carson City, Nevada 89711-0525  
Telephone (775) 684-4867 • Fax (775) 684-4879

March 14, 2003

Assemblywoman Vonne Chowning  
Chairperson of Transportation  
c/o Nevada Assembly  
401 South Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

### RE: BLUE LIGHTS ON TAIL LENS OF MOTORCYCLES

Dear Chairwoman Vonne Chowning:

The Nevada Highway Patrol does not support the addition of allowing a blue light on the tail lens of a motorcycle.

It is our position that only emergency vehicles should display any blue lights on their vehicles. This allows citizens to readily identify law enforcement, fire services and emergency medical personnel.

As always, we are just an enforcement arm of the government and whatever final decision the Legislature and Governor make, we will support.

If my office or staff can be of any further assistance in this matter, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Colonel David S. Hosmer, Chief  
Nevada Highway Patrol

DSH:lsg

cc: File

NHPL03-013

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