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ASSEMBLY BILL 444

Assembly Bill 444 (Committee on Transportation): Heard 4-24; Work Session 5-08 and 5-15

AN ACT relating to traffic laws; authorizing vehicles used by the Department of Transportation in the construction, maintenance or repair of highways to be equipped with tail lamps that emit nonflashing blue light under certain circumstances; providing an additional penalty for a violation of certain traffic laws in an area designated as a temporary traffic control zone for construction, maintenance or repair of a highway; requiring prosecution of a failure to comply with signals of flagmen under certain circumstances; providing penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

This bill allows, but does not require, the Department of Transportation to equip vehicles with tail lamps that emit a nonflashing blue light. Testimony indicated that blue lights are easier to see in stormy conditions, thereby making it safer for maintenance workers working in such conditions.

Testimony stated that motorists are most at risk in work zones. Each year, more than 80 percent of all fatalities in work zone crashes are motor vehicle occupants. In the year 2000, there were 1,093 people killed in motor vehicle crashes in work zones.

The mock up presented to the Committee contains six proposed amendments that will:

1. Include language, which provides the district attorney flexibility in prosecuting cases in which a worker is injured or killed. (Proposed by Senator Terry Care, Pg. 4)
2. Require increased prosecution of certain violations resulting in injury to a worker. (Proposed by Skip Daly, Laborers Union Local 169, Pg. 4)
3. Maintain uniformity in the signage utilized throughout the state, to notify persons of the double penalty if cited for certain violation within a construction zone. (Proposed by Skip Daly, Laborers Union Local 169, Pg. 8)
4. Permit certain advertisement at monorail stations. (Proposed by Morgan Baumgartner, Las Vegas Monorail, Pg. 13)
5. Ensure advertisement revenue is used for repayment of certain bonds and does not supplant other funds designated by the Company for this purpose. (Proposed by Senator Dennis Nolan, Pg. 14)
6. Authorize the use of the single center lane to make a left-hand turn onto a highway. (Proposed by Assemblyman Ron Knecht, Pg. 14)