
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 77—ASSEMBLYMEN ANGLE, GUSTAVSON,
ANDONOV, BEERS, BROWN, CLABORN, COLLINS, GEDDES,
GIBBONS, GOICOECHEA, GRADY, GRIFFIN, HARDY,
HETTRICK, KNECHT, MABEY, MCCLEARY, MORTENSON,
OHRENSCHALL, SHERER AND WEBER

FEBRUARY 11, 2003

JOINT SPONSOR: SENATOR SHAFFER

Referred to Committee on Transportation

SUMMARY—Authorizes certain inserts in tail lamps on
motorcycles. (BDR 43-220)

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 ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to motorcycles; authorizing certain inserts in tail
lamps; and providing other matters properly relating
thereto.

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

- 1 **Section 1.** NRS 484.551 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 484.551 1. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter ~~§~~
3 *and NRS 486.261*, every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer and any
4 vehicle which is being drawn at the end of a train of vehicles must
5 be equipped with at least two tail lamps mounted on the rear, which,
6 when lighted as required by this chapter, emit a red light plainly
7 visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear, except that vehicles
8 manufactured before July 1, 1969, must have at least one tail lamp if
9 they were originally equipped with only one tail lamp.
10 2. Only the tail lamp on the rearmost vehicle of a train of
11 vehicles need actually be seen from the distance specified.



1 3. On vehicles equipped with more than one tail lamp, the
2 lamps must be mounted on the same level, as widely spaced
3 laterally as practicable and at a height of not more than 72 inches
4 nor less than 15 inches.

5 4. Every passenger car, bus and truck under 80 inches in
6 overall width must be equipped with a lamp so constructed and
7 placed as to illuminate with a white light the rear registration or
8 license plate and render it clearly legible from a distance of 50 feet
9 to the rear.

10 5. All such lamps must be wired to be lighted whenever the
11 head lamps or auxiliary driving lamps are lighted.

12 6. The provisions of this section do not apply to towable tools
13 or equipment which is being towed during the hours of daylight.

14 **Sec. 2.** NRS 484.563 is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 484.563 1. Front clearance lamps, identification lamps and
16 those marker lamps and reflectors mounted on the front or on the
17 side near the front of a vehicle ~~{shall}~~ **must** display or reflect an
18 amber color.

19 2. Rear clearance lamps, identification lamps and those marker
20 lamps and reflectors mounted on the rear or on the sides near the
21 rear of a vehicle ~~{shall}~~ **must** display or reflect a red color.

22 3. All lighting devices and reflectors mounted on the rear of
23 any vehicle ~~{shall}~~ **must** display or reflect a red color, except that:

24 (a) The stoplight or other signal device may be red, amber or
25 yellow.

26 (b) The light illuminating the license plate ~~{shall}~~ **must** be white.

27 (c) The light emitted by a backup lamp ~~{shall}~~ **must** be white or
28 amber.

29 *(d) The tail lamp on a motorcycle may contain a blue or purple
30 insert as authorized in NRS 486.261.*

31 **Sec. 3.** NRS 484.787 is hereby amended to read as follows:

32 484.787 1. Except as *otherwise* provided in NRS 484.789,
33 authorized emergency vehicles are vehicles publicly owned and
34 operated in the performance of the duty of:

35 (a) A police or fire department.

36 (b) A sheriff's office.

37 (c) The Nevada Highway Patrol.

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

40 (e) A public ambulance agency.

41 (f) A public lifeguard or lifesaving agency.

42 2. A vehicle publicly maintained in whole or in part by the
43 State, or by a city or county, and privately owned and operated by a
44 regularly salaried member of a police department, sheriff's office or



1 traffic law enforcement department, is an authorized emergency
2 vehicle if:

3 (a) The vehicle has a permit, pursuant to NRS 484.789, from the
4 Department;

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

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

10 3. Every authorized emergency vehicle must be equipped with
11 at least one flashing red warning lamp visible from the front and a
12 siren for use as provided in this chapter, which lamp and siren must
13 be in compliance with standards approved by the Department. In
14 addition, an authorized emergency vehicle may display revolving,
15 flashing or steady red or blue warning lights to the front, sides or
16 rear of the vehicle.

17 4. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a
18 system or device that causes the upper-beam head lamps of the
19 vehicle to continue to flash alternately while the system or device is
20 activated. The driver of a vehicle that is so equipped may use the
21 system or device when responding to an emergency call or fire
22 alarm, while escorting a funeral procession, or when in pursuit of an
23 actual or suspected violator of the law. As used in this subsection,
24 "upper-beam head lamp" means a head lamp or that part of a head
25 lamp which projects a distribution of light or composite beam
26 meeting the requirements of subsection 1 of NRS 484.587.

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

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

40 7. A person shall not operate a vehicle with any lamp or device
41 displaying a blue light, except *a motorcycle pursuant to NRS*
42 *486.261 or* an authorized emergency vehicle.

43 **Sec. 4.** NRS 486.261 is hereby amended to read as follows:

44 486.261 1. ~~Every~~ *Except as otherwise provided in*
45 *subsection 3, every* motorcycle or moped must be equipped with at



- 1 least one tail lamp mounted on the rear, which, when lighted as
- 2 required by NRS 486.011 to 486.381, inclusive, emits a red light
- 3 plainly visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear.
- 4 2. The tail lamp must be wired to be lighted whenever the head
- 5 lamp is lighted.
- 6 3. *The tail lamp on a motorcycle may contain a blue or*
- 7 *purple insert that does not exceed 1 inch in diameter.*

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