
SENATE BILL NO. 471—COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND HOMELAND SECURITY

MARCH 29, 2005

Referred to Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security

SUMMARY—Authorizes emergency lights to be mounted and displayed on certain privately owned vehicles under certain circumstances. (BDR 43-1339)

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 motor vehicles; authorizing emergency lights to be mounted and displayed on certain privately owned vehicles under certain circumstances; providing a penalty; 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.** Chapter 484 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:
3 ***1. A fireman or volunteer attendant may, upon obtaining a***
4 ***permit pursuant to NRS 484.789:***
5 ***(a) Mount or attach flashing or rotating lights to his privately***
6 ***owned vehicle in accordance with subsection 2; and***
7 ***(b) Operate those lights in accordance with subsection 3.***
8 ***2. The lights described in subsection 1:***
9 ***(a) May be mounted to the vehicle permanently or may be***
10 ***attached temporarily through the use of a magnet, suction cup or***
11 ***other device;***
12 ***(b) Must be mounted or attached to the vehicle in a secure***
13 ***manner;***
14 ***(c) Must display red or white light, or both, to the front of the***
15 ***vehicle, and must display red light to the rear of the vehicle; and***



1 (d) *Must be visible for a distance of not less than 500 feet in*
2 *normal weather conditions while the vehicle is in motion.*

3 3. *A fireman or volunteer attendant may operate the lights*
4 *described in subsection 1 on his privately owned vehicle only:*

5 (a) *When responding to an emergency;*

6 (b) *To warn other vehicles or pedestrians of an unusual traffic*
7 *hazard or other dangerous condition; or*

8 (c) *At the direction of a fire chief or any of his assistants or at*
9 *the direction of a law enforcement officer.*

10 4. *A person who operates the lights described in subsection 1*
11 *on a privately owned vehicle under circumstances other than those*
12 *authorized pursuant to subsection 3 is guilty of a misdemeanor.*

13 5. *As used in this section:*

14 (a) *“Fireman” has the meaning ascribed to it in*
15 *NRS 450B.073.*

16 (b) *“Volunteer attendant” has the meaning ascribed to it in*
17 *NRS 450B.110.*

18 **Sec. 2.** NRS 484.787 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19 484.787 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 484.789,
20 authorized emergency vehicles are vehicles publicly owned and
21 operated in the performance of the duty of:

22 (a) A police or fire department.

23 (b) A sheriff’s office.

24 (c) The Nevada Highway Patrol.

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

27 (e) A public ambulance agency.

28 (f) A public lifeguard or lifesaving agency.

29 2. A vehicle publicly maintained in whole or in part by the
30 State, or by a city or county, and privately owned and operated by a
31 regularly salaried member of a police department, sheriff’s office or
32 traffic law enforcement department, is an authorized emergency
33 vehicle if:

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

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

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

41 3. Every authorized emergency vehicle must be equipped with
42 at least one flashing red warning lamp visible from the front and a
43 siren for use as provided in this chapter, which lamp and siren must
44 be in compliance with standards approved by the Department. In
45 addition, an authorized emergency vehicle may display revolving,



1 flashing or steady red or blue warning lights to the front, sides or
2 rear of the vehicle.

3 4. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a
4 system or device that causes the upper-beam head lamps of the
5 vehicle to continue to flash alternately while the system or device is
6 activated. The driver of a vehicle that is so equipped may use the
7 system or device when responding to an emergency call or fire
8 alarm, while escorting a funeral procession, or when in pursuit of an
9 actual or suspected violator of the law. As used in this subsection,
10 "upper-beam head lamp" means a head lamp or that part of a head
11 lamp which projects a distribution of light or composite beam
12 meeting the requirements of subsection 1 of NRS 484.587.

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

22 6. A person shall not operate a vehicle with any lamp or device
23 displaying a red light visible from directly in front of the center of
24 the vehicle except an authorized emergency vehicle, a school bus, *a*
25 *privately owned vehicle pursuant to section 1 of this act* or an
26 official vehicle of a regulatory agency.

27 7. A person shall not operate a vehicle with any lamp or device
28 displaying a blue light, except a motorcycle pursuant to NRS
29 486.261 or an authorized emergency vehicle.

30 **Sec. 3.** NRS 484.789 is hereby amended to read as follows:

31 484.789 1. The Department may issue permits for authorized
32 emergency vehicles to vehicles required to be operated primarily for
33 the immediate preservation of life or property or for the
34 apprehension of violators of the law. ~~{The}~~ *Except with respect to*
35 *permits issued for vehicles authorized to use emergency lights*
36 *pursuant to section 1 of this act, the* permits must not be issued to
37 vehicles when there are available comparable services provided by
38 agencies referred to in NRS 484.787.

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

41 (a) Agencies designated in NRS 484.787;

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

44 (c) Ambulances designed and operated exclusively as such;
45 ~~{and}~~



- 1 (d) Supervisory vehicles which are:
2 (1) Marked and used to coordinate and direct the response of
3 ambulances to emergencies;
4 (2) Privately owned by a person licensed to operate an
5 ambulance; and
6 (3) Operated under contract with a local governmental
7 agency and at the request of its law enforcement agency or fire
8 department ~~H~~; and
9 (e) *Vehicles which comply with the provisions of section 1 of*
10 *this act.*
11 3. The following are not emergency vehicles and must not be
12 permitted to operate as such:
13 (a) Tow cars;
14 (b) Vehicles used by public utilities;
15 (c) Vehicles used in merchant patrols;
16 (d) Vehicles used in private escort service;
17 (e) ~~Privately~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 1 of this*
18 *act, privately* owned vehicles of volunteer firemen;
19 (f) Privately owned vehicles of reserve members of a police
20 department or a sheriff's office; and
21 (g) Vehicles of private detectives.

