HB 1113 2024

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the use of lights and sirens on
emergency vehicles; amending s. 316.2397, F.S.;
authorizing certain vehicles transporting organs and
surgical teams for organ recovery and transplant to
operate emergency lights and sirens while en route to
a hospital, airport, or other designated location;
providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 316.2397, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

316.2397 Certain lights prohibited; exceptions.-

- (3) (a) Vehicles of the fire department and fire patrol, including vehicles of volunteer firefighters as permitted under s. 316.2398, may show or display red or red and white lights.
- (b) Vehicles of medical staff physicians or technicians of medical facilities licensed by the state or of volunteer ambulance services as authorized under s. 316.2398, ambulances as authorized under this chapter, and buses and taxicabs as authorized under s. 316.2399 may show or display red lights.
- (c) Vehicles of the fire department, fire patrol, police vehicles, and such ambulances and emergency vehicles of municipal and county departments, volunteer ambulance services,

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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public service corporations operated by private corporations, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the Department of Corrections as are designated or authorized by their respective department or the chief of police of an incorporated city or any sheriff of any county may operate emergency lights and sirens in an emergency.

- (d) Vehicles designated as emergency vehicles for the sole purpose of transporting organs and surgical teams for organ recovery and transplant may operate emergency lights and sirens while en route to a hospital, airport, or other designated location. Such vehicles include, but are not limited to, dedicated and marked vehicles operated by organ procurement organizations, transplant centers, or their contracted service providers.
- (e) Wreckers, mosquito control fog and spray vehicles, and emergency vehicles of governmental departments or public service corporations may show or display amber lights when in actual operation or when a hazard exists provided they are not used going to and from the scene of operation or hazard without specific authorization of a law enforcement officer or law enforcement agency. Wreckers must use amber rotating or flashing lights while performing recoveries and loading on the roadside day or night, and may use such lights while towing a vehicle on

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wheel lifts, slings, or under reach if the operator of the wrecker deems such lights necessary. A flatbed, car carrier, or rollback may not use amber rotating or flashing lights when hauling a vehicle on the bed unless it creates a hazard to other motorists because of protruding objects. Further, escort vehicles may show or display amber lights when in the actual process of escorting overdimensioned equipment, material, or buildings as authorized by law.

<u>(f)</u> Vehicles owned or leased by private security agencies may show or display green and amber lights, with either color being no greater than 50 percent of the lights displayed, while the security personnel are engaged in security duties on private or public property.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.