

ENROLLED

CS/HB 463

2024 Legislature

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 2 An act relating to lights displayed on fire department
 3 vehicles; amending s. 316.2397, F.S.; authorizing
 4 certain government-owned fire department vehicles to
 5 show or display blue lights under certain
 6 circumstances; providing an effective date.

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

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 10 Section 1. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 316.2397,
 11 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

12 316.2397 Certain lights prohibited; exceptions.—

13 (2) It is expressly prohibited for any vehicle or
 14 equipment to show or display blue lights, except the following:

15 (a) Police vehicles;

16 (b) Government-owned fire department vehicles, except
 17 vehicles of the fire patrol or volunteer fire departments, with
 18 a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 24,000 pounds if
 19 authorized in writing by the fire chief of the government agency
 20 and if shown or displayed only on the rear of such vehicles;
 21 ~~and, to show or display blue lights. However,~~

22 (c) Vehicles owned, operated, or leased by the Department
 23 of Corrections or any county correctional agency ~~may show or~~
 24 ~~display blue lights~~ when responding to emergencies.

25 (3) (a) Vehicles of the fire department and fire patrol,

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26 including vehicles of volunteer firefighters as permitted under
 27 s. 316.2398, may show or display red or red and white lights.
 28 However, blue lights may be shown or displayed on fire
 29 department vehicles in accordance with paragraph (2)(b).

30 (b) Vehicles of medical staff physicians or technicians of
 31 medical facilities licensed by the state or of volunteer
 32 ambulance services as authorized under s. 316.2398, ambulances
 33 as authorized under this chapter, and buses and taxicabs as
 34 authorized under s. 316.2399 may show or display red lights.

35 (c) Vehicles of the fire department and~~7~~ fire patrol,
 36 police vehicles, and such ambulances and emergency vehicles of
 37 municipal and county departments, volunteer ambulance services,
 38 public service corporations operated by private corporations,
 39 the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of
 40 Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation, the
 41 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the
 42 Department of Corrections as are designated or authorized by
 43 their respective department or the chief of police of an
 44 incorporated city or any sheriff of any county may operate
 45 emergency lights and sirens in an emergency.

46 (d) Wreckers, mosquito control fog and spray vehicles, and
 47 emergency vehicles of governmental departments or public service
 48 corporations may show or display amber lights when in actual
 49 operation or when a hazard exists provided they are not used
 50 going to and from the scene of operation or hazard without

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51 specific authorization of a law enforcement officer or law
52 enforcement agency. Wreckers must use amber rotating or flashing
53 lights while performing recoveries and loading on the roadside
54 day or night, and may use such lights while towing a vehicle on
55 wheel lifts, slings, or under reach if the operator of the
56 wrecker deems such lights necessary. A flatbed, car carrier, or
57 rollback may not use amber rotating or flashing lights when
58 hauling a vehicle on the bed unless it creates a hazard to other
59 motorists because of protruding objects. Further, escort
60 vehicles may show or display amber lights when in the actual
61 process of escorting oversized equipment, material, or
62 buildings as authorized by law.

63 (e) Vehicles owned or leased by private security agencies
64 may show or display green and amber lights, with either color
65 being no greater than 50 percent of the lights displayed, while
66 the security personnel are engaged in security duties on private
67 or public property.

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