

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1282

By: Hiett

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to motor vehicles; amending 47 O.S. 1991, Sections 12-218, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 55, O.S.L. 1998 and 12-227, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 26, O.S.L. 1998 (47 O.S. Supp. 1998, Sections 12-218 and 12-227), which relate to equipment on vehicles; modifying types of lights to be displayed on emergency and wrecker vehicles; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 1991, Section 12-218, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 55, O.S.L. 1998 (47 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 12-218), is amended to read as follows:

Section 12-218. A. Every authorized emergency vehicle shall, in addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings required by this act, be equipped with a siren, exhaust whistle or bell capable of giving an audible signal.

B. Every school bus used for transportation of school children and every authorized emergency vehicle shall, in addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings required by this act, be equipped with signal lamps mounted as high and as widely spaced laterally as practicable, which shall be capable of displaying to the front two alternately flashing red, or for authorized emergency vehicles, flashing red, white or blue lights located at the same level, and these lights shall have sufficient intensity to be visible at five hundred (500) feet in normal sunlight or, as an alternative, authorized emergency vehicles may use one white, red or blue signal lamp so located at or near the top of the vehicle which

when lighted is visible for a distance of five hundred (500) feet in normal sunlight both to the front and to the rear of the vehicle.

C. A law enforcement vehicle when used as an authorized emergency vehicle may but need not be equipped with alternately-flashing red lights specified herein.

D. The use of the signal equipment described herein shall impose upon drivers of other vehicles the obligation to yield right-of-way and stop as prescribed in Sections 11-405 and 11-705 of this ~~act~~ title.

E. It shall be unlawful for any person to use audible signal equipment from a motor vehicle for the purpose of causing any other motor vehicle operator to yield right-of-way and stop. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to vehicles of any fire department, fire patrol, law enforcement vehicles, ambulances, or other authorized emergency vehicles.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 1991, Section 12-227, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 26, O.S.L. 1998 (47 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 12-227), is amended to read as follows:

Section 12-227. A. Any lighted lamp or illuminating device upon a motor vehicle, other than head lamps, spot lamps, auxiliary lamps, flashing turn signals, emergency vehicle warning lamps, construction and maintenance vehicle warning lamps, and school bus warning lamps, which projects a beam of light of an intensity greater than three hundred (300) candlepower shall be so directed that no part of the high intensity portion of the beam will strike the level of the roadway on which the vehicle stands at a distance of more than seventy-five (75) feet from the vehicle.

B. No person shall drive or move any vehicle or equipment upon any highway with any lamp or device thereon displaying a red light visible from directly in front of the center thereof. This section shall not apply to any vehicle upon which a red light visible from the front is expressly authorized or required by this title.

C. Flashing lights are prohibited except on an authorized emergency vehicle, school bus, church bus as defined in Section 11-705.1 of this title, snow-removal equipment, wreckers and tow vehicles ~~while at the scene of an emergency~~, or on any vehicle as a means of indicating a right or left turn, or the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, overtaking or passing. Flashing red or blue lights or a combination of flashing red and blue lights may be used on vehicles or machinery owned or operated by any agency of the state or by any county or city when engaged in the performance of emergency work or on the construction or maintenance of highways or bridges, or on wreckers and tow vehicles ~~at the scene of an emergency~~.

D. Blue lights are prohibited except as allowed in subsection C of this section.

E. Any person violating the provisions of subsection B, C or D of this section shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six (6) months, or by a fine not exceeding Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 1999.

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