

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

3 HOUSE BILL 2721

By: Banz

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to motor vehicles; permitting use of
8 certain emergency lights on volunteer firefighter
9 vehicles; authorizing local fire chief to determine
10 use of lights; mandating transport of signed
11 authorization; requiring certain visibility of
12 lights; amending 47 O.S. 2011, Section 12-227, which
13 relates to special restrictions on lamps and
14 illuminating devices; adding an exception to certain
15 prohibited act; providing for codification; and
16 providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 12-218.3 of Title 47, unless
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A volunteer firefighter may equip a privately owned vehicle with
emergency flashing red or white lights or a combination of flashing
red and white lights subject to the authorization of the local fire
chief. The chief of the local fire department shall have the sole
discretion in designating and allowing volunteer firefighters, if
any, to use emergency flashing lighting during an emergency. The
authorization shall include a signed, written statement of use by

1 the volunteer firefighter from the local fire chief and shall be
2 carried in the vehicle of the volunteer firefighter at any time the
3 emergency flashing lighting is in use. The lights shall be visible
4 at five hundred (500) feet in normal sunlight.

5 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, Section 12-227, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Section 12-227. A. Any lighted lamp or illuminating device
8 upon a motor vehicle, other than headlamps, spot lamps, auxiliary
9 driving lamps, flashing turn signals, vehicular hazard warning
10 lamps, authorized emergency vehicle lamps, snow removal and
11 construction and maintenance vehicle warning lamps, and school bus
12 and church bus warning lamps, which projects a beam of light of an
13 intensity greater than three hundred (300) candlepower shall be so
14 directed that no part of the high intensity portion of the beam will
15 strike the level of the roadway on which the vehicle stands at a
16 distance of more than seventy-five (75) feet from the vehicle.

17 B. Except as provided in Sections 12-218, 12-218.1, 12-228, and
18 12-229 of this title and Section 1 of this act, no person shall
19 drive or move any vehicle or equipment upon any highway with any
20 lamp or device thereon displaying or capable of displaying a red or
21 blue light visible from directly in front of the center thereof.

22 C. Flashing lights are prohibited except on:

23 1. An authorized emergency vehicle, as provided in Section 12-
24 218 of this title;

1 2. A school bus or a church bus, as provided in Section 12-228
2 of this title;

3 3. Any snow-removal and construction, and maintenance
4 equipment, as provided in Section 12-229 of this title;

5 4. A wrecker or tow vehicle while at the scene of an emergency
6 or loading or unloading a vehicle in close proximity to traffic as
7 needed for safety precautions or as a means of indicating the
8 presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring unusual care in
9 approaching, overtaking or passing, as provided in Section 12-218.1
10 of this title;

11 5. Any vehicle as a means of indicating a right or left turn,
12 as provided in Sections 12-206.1 and 12-606 of this title;

13 6. Any vehicle as means of indicating the presence of a
14 vehicular traffic hazard requiring unusual care in approaching,
15 overtaking or passing, as provided in Section 12-220 of this title;

16 7. Any vehicle displaying side marker lamps which flash in
17 conjunction with turn signal lamps or vehicle hazard warning lamps,
18 as provided in Section 12-220 of this title;

19 8. A farm tractor or an implement of husbandry, as provided in
20 Section 12-215 of this title; ~~or~~

21 9. Any vehicle used while performing official duties as a rural
22 or contract route mail carrier of the United States Postal Service,
23 as provided in Section 12-218.2 of this title; or

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1 10. Any vehicle of a volunteer firefighter that is used to
2 respond to an emergency, as provided in Section 1 of this act.

3 D. Blue lights are prohibited except as allowed in Sections 12-
4 218, 12-218.1, and 12-229 of this title.

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

10 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2014.

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