

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by changing
5 Section 12-215 and by adding Section 1-220 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/1-220 new)

7 Sec. 1-220. Volunteer EMS provider. An Emergency Medical
8 Services (EMS) Volunteer Ambulance provider who, on the
9 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 99th General
10 Assembly, has a valid memorandum of understanding with a
11 municipality with a population of more than 1,000,000 to
12 provide voluntary assistance to and for the benefit of the
13 residents of that municipality.

14 (625 ILCS 5/12-215) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 12-215)

15 Sec. 12-215. Oscillating, rotating or flashing lights on
16 motor vehicles. Except as otherwise provided in this Code:

17 (a) The use of red or white oscillating, rotating or
18 flashing lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited
19 except on:

20 1. Law enforcement vehicles of State, Federal or local
21 authorities;

22 2. A vehicle operated by a police officer or county

1 coroner and designated or authorized by local authorities,
2 in writing, as a law enforcement vehicle; however, such
3 designation or authorization must be carried in the
4 vehicle;

5 2.1. A vehicle operated by a fire chief who has
6 completed an emergency vehicle operation training course
7 approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and
8 designated or authorized by local authorities, in writing,
9 as a fire department, fire protection district, or township
10 fire department vehicle; however, the designation or
11 authorization must be carried in the vehicle, and the
12 lights may be visible or activated only when responding to
13 a bona fide emergency;

14 3. Vehicles of local fire departments and State or
15 federal firefighting vehicles;

16 4. Vehicles which are designed and used exclusively as
17 ambulances or rescue vehicles; furthermore, such lights
18 shall not be lighted except when responding to an emergency
19 call for and while actually conveying the sick or injured;

20 4.5. Vehicles which are occasionally used as rescue
21 vehicles that have been authorized for use as rescue
22 vehicles by a volunteer EMS provider, provided that the
23 operator of the vehicle has successfully completed an
24 emergency vehicle operation training course recognized by
25 the Department of Public Health; furthermore, the lights
26 shall not be lighted except when responding to an emergency

1 call for the sick or injured;

2 5. Tow trucks licensed in a state that requires such
3 lights; furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted on
4 any such tow truck while the tow truck is operating in the
5 State of Illinois;

6 6. Vehicles of the Illinois Emergency Management
7 Agency, vehicles of the Office of the Illinois State Fire
8 Marshal, vehicles of the Illinois Department of Public
9 Health, vehicles of the Illinois Department of
10 Corrections, and vehicles of the Illinois Department of
11 Juvenile Justice;

12 7. Vehicles operated by a local or county emergency
13 management services agency as defined in the Illinois
14 Emergency Management Agency Act;

15 8. School buses operating alternately flashing head
16 lamps as permitted under Section 12-805 of this Code;

17 9. Vehicles that are equipped and used exclusively as
18 organ transplant vehicles when used in combination with
19 blue oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights;
20 furthermore, these lights shall be lighted only when the
21 transportation is declared an emergency by a member of the
22 transplant team or a representative of the organ
23 procurement organization;

24 10. Vehicles of the Illinois Department of Natural
25 Resources that are used for mine rescue and explosives
26 emergency response; ~~and~~

1 11. Vehicles of the Illinois Department of
2 Transportation identified as Emergency Traffic Patrol; the
3 lights shall not be lighted except when responding to an
4 emergency call or when parked or stationary while engaged
5 in motor vehicle assistance or at the scene of the
6 emergency; and

7 12. Vehicles of the Illinois State Toll Highway
8 Authority identified as Highway Emergency Lane Patrol; the
9 lights shall not be lighted except when responding to an
10 emergency call or when parked or stationary while engaged
11 in motor vehicle assistance or at the scene of the
12 emergency.

13 (b) The use of amber oscillating, rotating or flashing
14 lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited except on:

15 1. Second division vehicles designed and used for
16 towing or hoisting vehicles; furthermore, such lights
17 shall not be lighted except as required in this paragraph
18 1; such lights shall be lighted when such vehicles are
19 actually being used at the scene of an accident or
20 disablement; if the towing vehicle is equipped with a flat
21 bed that supports all wheels of the vehicle being
22 transported, the lights shall not be lighted while the
23 vehicle is engaged in towing on a highway; if the towing
24 vehicle is not equipped with a flat bed that supports all
25 wheels of a vehicle being transported, the lights shall be
26 lighted while the towing vehicle is engaged in towing on a

1 highway during all times when the use of headlights is
2 required under Section 12-201 of this Code; in addition,
3 these vehicles may use white oscillating, rotating, or
4 flashing lights in combination with amber oscillating,
5 rotating, or flashing lights as provided in this paragraph;

6 2. Motor vehicles or equipment of the State of
7 Illinois, the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, local
8 authorities and contractors; furthermore, such lights
9 shall not be lighted except while such vehicles are engaged
10 in maintenance or construction operations within the
11 limits of construction projects;

12 3. Vehicles or equipment used by engineering or survey
13 crews; furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted except
14 while such vehicles are actually engaged in work on a
15 highway;

16 4. Vehicles of public utilities, municipalities, or
17 other construction, maintenance or automotive service
18 vehicles except that such lights shall be lighted only as a
19 means for indicating the presence of a vehicular traffic
20 hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, overtaking
21 or passing while such vehicles are engaged in maintenance,
22 service or construction on a highway;

23 5. Oversized vehicle or load; however, such lights
24 shall only be lighted when moving under permit issued by
25 the Department under Section 15-301 of this Code;

26 6. The front and rear of motorized equipment owned and

1 operated by the State of Illinois or any political
2 subdivision thereof, which is designed and used for removal
3 of snow and ice from highways;

4 6.1. The front and rear of motorized equipment or
5 vehicles that (i) are not owned by the State of Illinois or
6 any political subdivision of the State, (ii) are designed
7 and used for removal of snow and ice from highways and
8 parking lots, and (iii) are equipped with a snow plow that
9 is 12 feet in width; these lights may not be lighted except
10 when the motorized equipment or vehicle is actually being
11 used for those purposes on behalf of a unit of government;

12 7. Fleet safety vehicles registered in another state,
13 furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted except as
14 provided for in Section 12-212 of this Code;

15 8. Such other vehicles as may be authorized by local
16 authorities;

17 9. Law enforcement vehicles of State or local
18 authorities when used in combination with red oscillating,
19 rotating or flashing lights;

20 9.5. Propane delivery trucks;

21 10. Vehicles used for collecting or delivering mail for
22 the United States Postal Service provided that such lights
23 shall not be lighted except when such vehicles are actually
24 being used for such purposes;

25 10.5. Vehicles of the Office of the Illinois State Fire
26 Marshal, provided that such lights shall not be lighted

1 except for when such vehicles are engaged in work for the
2 Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal;

3 11. Any vehicle displaying a slow-moving vehicle
4 emblem as provided in Section 12-205.1;

5 12. All trucks equipped with self-compactors or
6 roll-off hoists and roll-on containers for garbage or
7 refuse hauling. Such lights shall not be lighted except
8 when such vehicles are actually being used for such
9 purposes;

10 13. Vehicles used by a security company, alarm
11 responder, control agency, or the Illinois Department of
12 Corrections;

13 14. Security vehicles of the Department of Human
14 Services; however, the lights shall not be lighted except
15 when being used for security related purposes under the
16 direction of the superintendent of the facility where the
17 vehicle is located; and

18 15. Vehicles of union representatives, except that the
19 lights shall be lighted only while the vehicle is within
20 the limits of a construction project.

21 (c) The use of blue oscillating, rotating or flashing
22 lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited except on:

23 1. Rescue squad vehicles not owned by a fire department
24 and vehicles owned or operated by a:

25 voluntary firefighter;

26 paid firefighter;

1 part-paid firefighter;
2 call firefighter;
3 member of the board of trustees of a fire
4 protection district;
5 paid or unpaid member of a rescue squad;
6 paid or unpaid member of a voluntary ambulance
7 unit; or
8 paid or unpaid members of a local or county
9 emergency management services agency as defined in the
10 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, designated
11 or authorized by local authorities, in writing, and
12 carrying that designation or authorization in the
13 vehicle.

14 However, such lights are not to be lighted except when
15 responding to a bona fide emergency or when parked or
16 stationary at the scene of a fire, rescue call, ambulance
17 call, or motor vehicle accident.

18 Any person using these lights in accordance with this
19 subdivision (c)1 must carry on his or her person an
20 identification card or letter identifying the bona fide
21 member of a fire department, fire protection district,
22 rescue squad, ambulance unit, or emergency management
23 services agency that owns or operates that vehicle. The
24 card or letter must include:

25 (A) the name of the fire department, fire
26 protection district, rescue squad, ambulance unit, or

1 emergency management services agency;

2 (B) the member's position within the fire
3 department, fire protection district, rescue squad,
4 ambulance unit, or emergency management services
5 agency;

6 (C) the member's term of service; and

7 (D) the name of a person within the fire
8 department, fire protection district, rescue squad,
9 ambulance unit, or emergency management services
10 agency to contact to verify the information provided.

11 2. Police department vehicles in cities having a
12 population of 500,000 or more inhabitants.

13 3. Law enforcement vehicles of State or local
14 authorities when used in combination with red oscillating,
15 rotating or flashing lights.

16 4. Vehicles of local fire departments and State or
17 federal firefighting vehicles when used in combination
18 with red oscillating, rotating or flashing lights.

19 5. Vehicles which are designed and used exclusively as
20 ambulances or rescue vehicles when used in combination with
21 red oscillating, rotating or flashing lights; furthermore,
22 such lights shall not be lighted except when responding to
23 an emergency call.

24 6. Vehicles that are equipped and used exclusively as
25 organ transport vehicles when used in combination with red
26 oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights; furthermore,

1 these lights shall only be lighted when the transportation
2 is declared an emergency by a member of the transplant team
3 or a representative of the organ procurement organization.

4 7. Vehicles of the Illinois Emergency Management
5 Agency, vehicles of the Office of the Illinois State Fire
6 Marshal, vehicles of the Illinois Department of Public
7 Health, vehicles of the Illinois Department of
8 Corrections, and vehicles of the Illinois Department of
9 Juvenile Justice, when used in combination with red
10 oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights.

11 8. Vehicles operated by a local or county emergency
12 management services agency as defined in the Illinois
13 Emergency Management Agency Act, when used in combination
14 with red oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights.

15 9. Vehicles of the Illinois Department of Natural
16 Resources that are used for mine rescue and explosives
17 emergency response, when used in combination with red
18 oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights.

19 (c-1) In addition to the blue oscillating, rotating, or
20 flashing lights permitted under subsection (c), and
21 notwithstanding subsection (a), a vehicle operated by a
22 voluntary firefighter, a voluntary member of a rescue squad, or
23 a member of a voluntary ambulance unit may be equipped with
24 flashing white headlights and blue grill lights, which may be
25 used only in responding to an emergency call or when parked or
26 stationary at the scene of a fire, rescue call, ambulance call,

1 or motor vehicle accident.

2 (c-2) In addition to the blue oscillating, rotating, or
3 flashing lights permitted under subsection (c), and
4 notwithstanding subsection (a), a vehicle operated by a paid or
5 unpaid member of a local or county emergency management
6 services agency as defined in the Illinois Emergency Management
7 Agency Act, may be equipped with white oscillating, rotating,
8 or flashing lights to be used in combination with blue
9 oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights, if authorization by
10 local authorities is in writing and carried in the vehicle.

11 (d) The use of a combination of amber and white
12 oscillating, rotating or flashing lights, whether lighted or
13 unlighted, is prohibited except on second division vehicles
14 designed and used for towing or hoisting vehicles or motor
15 vehicles or equipment of the State of Illinois, local
16 authorities, contractors, and union representatives;
17 furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted on second
18 division vehicles designed and used for towing or hoisting
19 vehicles or vehicles of the State of Illinois, local
20 authorities, and contractors except while such vehicles are
21 engaged in a tow operation, highway maintenance, or
22 construction operations within the limits of highway
23 construction projects, and shall not be lighted on the vehicles
24 of union representatives except when those vehicles are within
25 the limits of a construction project.

26 (e) All oscillating, rotating or flashing lights referred

1 to in this Section shall be of sufficient intensity, when
2 illuminated, to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight.

3 (f) Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a manufacturer
4 of oscillating, rotating or flashing lights or his
5 representative or authorized vendor from temporarily mounting
6 such lights on a vehicle for demonstration purposes only. If
7 the lights are not covered while the vehicle is operated upon a
8 highway, the vehicle shall display signage indicating that the
9 vehicle is out of service or not an emergency vehicle. The
10 signage shall be displayed on all sides of the vehicle in
11 letters at least 2 inches tall and one-half inch wide. A
12 vehicle authorized to have oscillating, rotating, or flashing
13 lights mounted for demonstration purposes may not activate the
14 lights while the vehicle is operated upon a highway.

15 (g) Any person violating the provisions of subsections (a),
16 (b), (c) or (d) of this Section who without lawful authority
17 stops or detains or attempts to stop or detain another person
18 shall be guilty of a Class 2 felony.

19 (h) Except as provided in subsection (g) above, any person
20 violating the provisions of subsections (a) or (c) of this
21 Section shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

22 (Source: P.A. 97-39, eff. 1-1-12; 97-149, eff. 7-14-11; 97-813,
23 eff. 7-13-12; 97-1173, eff. 1-1-14; 98-80, eff. 7-15-13;
24 98-123, eff. 1-1-14; 98-468, eff. 8-16-13; 98-756, eff.
25 7-16-14; 98-873, eff. 1-1-15; revised 10-6-14.)