



Sen. Neil Anderson

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1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 1215

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 1215 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by  
5 changing Sections 3-611.5, 12-215, and 12-601 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/3-611.5)

7 Sec. 3-611.5. Fire Chief license plates.

8 (a) The Secretary, upon receipt of a request from a  
9 municipality or fire protection district that operates a fire  
10 department or a Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, accompanied by an  
11 application and the appropriate fee, may issue, to a fire  
12 chief, deputy fire chief, and assistant fire chief of each  
13 municipal fire department or fire protection district and  
14 chief of a Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, special registration  
15 plates designated as Fire Chief license plates. The special  
16 plates issued under this Section shall be affixed only to

1 passenger vehicles of the first division or motor vehicles of  
2 the second division weighing not more than 8,000 pounds, owned  
3 by the fire department, ~~or~~ the fire chief, deputy fire chief,  
4 or assistant fire chief of the fire department, or chief of a  
5 Mutual Aid Box Alarm System. Plates issued under this Section  
6 shall expire according to the multi-year procedure established  
7 by Section 3-414.1 of this Code.

8 (b) The design and color of the special plates shall be  
9 wholly within the discretion of the Secretary. The plates are  
10 not required to designate "Land of Lincoln" as prescribed in  
11 subsection (b) of Section 3-412 of this Code. The Secretary  
12 may prescribe rules governing the requirements and approval of  
13 the special plates. The fee for this plate for a vehicle owned  
14 by the fire chief, deputy fire chief, or assistant fire chief  
15 shall be the same as the fee prescribed for first division  
16 vehicles in Section 3-806 of this Code. Permanent license  
17 plates for fire chief, deputy fire chief, or assistant fire  
18 chief vehicles owned by a municipal fire department or fire  
19 protection district shall be issued at the fee prescribed in  
20 Section 3-808.1(b).

21 (c) Any fire chief, deputy fire chief, ~~or~~ assistant fire  
22 chief, or chief of a Mutual Aid Box Alarm System operating  
23 warning devices as described in paragraph 2.1 of subsection  
24 (a) of Section 12-215 or subsection (b) of Section 12-601 upon  
25 a vehicle not owned by a municipality or fire protection  
26 district shall display license plates as described in this

1 Section.

2 (d) With the exception of permanently issued license  
3 plates, upon the resignation, termination, or reassignment to  
4 a rank other than fire chief, deputy fire chief, or assistant  
5 fire chief, or upon resignation, termination, or reassignment  
6 from a Mutual Aid Alarm Box System, a person issued plates  
7 under this Section shall immediately surrender the license  
8 plate to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall  
9 have the ability to recover license plates issued under this  
10 Section.

11 (Source: P.A. 102-448, eff. 1-1-22.)

12 (625 ILCS 5/12-215)

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

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

18 1. Law enforcement vehicles of State, federal, or  
19 local authorities;

20 2. A vehicle operated by a police officer or county  
21 coroner and designated or authorized by local authorities,  
22 in writing, as a law enforcement vehicle; however, such  
23 designation or authorization must be carried in the  
24 vehicle;

25 2.1. A vehicle operated by a fire chief, deputy fire

1 chief, or assistant fire chief or a chief of a Mutual Aid  
2 Box Alarm System who has completed an emergency vehicle  
3 operation training course approved by the Office of the  
4 State Fire Marshal and designated or authorized by local  
5 authorities, fire departments, ~~or~~ fire protection  
6 districts, or Mutual Aid Box Alarm Systems, in writing, as  
7 a fire department, fire protection district, ~~or~~ township  
8 fire department, or Mutual Aide Box Alarm System vehicle;  
9 however, the designation or authorization must be carried  
10 in the vehicle, and the lights may be visible or activated  
11 only when responding to a bona fide emergency;

12 3. Vehicles of local fire departments and State or  
13 federal firefighting vehicles;

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

19 4.5. Vehicles which are occasionally used as rescue  
20 vehicles that have been authorized for use as rescue  
21 vehicles by a volunteer EMS provider, provided that the  
22 operator of the vehicle has successfully completed an  
23 emergency vehicle operation training course recognized by  
24 the Department of Public Health; furthermore, the lights  
25 shall not be lighted except when responding to an  
26 emergency call for the sick or injured;

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

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

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

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

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

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

26           11. Vehicles of the Illinois Department of

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

6 12. Vehicles of the Illinois State Toll Highway  
7 Authority with a gross vehicle weight rating of 9,000  
8 pounds or more and those identified as Highway Emergency  
9 Lane Patrol; the lights shall not be lighted except when  
10 responding to an emergency call or when parked or  
11 stationary while engaged in motor vehicle assistance or at  
12 the scene of the 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 a crash 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  
6 paragraph;

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

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

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

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

1           6. The front and rear of motorized equipment owned and  
2 operated by the State of Illinois or any political  
3 subdivision thereof, which is designed and used for  
4 removal of snow and ice from highways;

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

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

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

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

21           9.5. Propane delivery trucks;

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

26           10.5. Vehicles of the Office of the Illinois State



1 Fire Marshal, provided that such lights shall not be  
2 lighted except for when such vehicles are engaged in work  
3 for the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal;

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 1. Rescue squad vehicles not owned by a fire  
25 department or fire protection district and vehicles owned  
26 or operated by a:

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

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

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

1 (A) the name of the fire department, fire  
2 protection district, rescue squad, ambulance unit, or  
3 emergency management services agency;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 6. Vehicles that are equipped and used exclusively as

1 organ transport vehicles when used in combination with red  
2 oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights; furthermore,  
3 these lights shall only be lighted when the transportation  
4 is declared an emergency by a member of the transplant  
5 team or a representative of the organ procurement  
6 organization.

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

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

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

22 (c-1) In addition to the blue oscillating, rotating, or  
23 flashing lights permitted under subsection (c), and  
24 notwithstanding subsection (a), a vehicle operated by a  
25 voluntary firefighter, a voluntary member of a rescue squad,  
26 or a member of a voluntary ambulance unit may be equipped with

1 flashing white headlights and blue grill lights, which may be  
2 used only in responding to an emergency call or when parked or  
3 stationary at the scene of a fire, rescue call, ambulance  
4 call, or motor vehicle crash.

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

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

1 construction projects, and shall not be lighted on the  
2 vehicles of union representatives except when those vehicles  
3 are within the limits of a construction project.

4 (e) All oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights referred  
5 to in this Section shall be of sufficient intensity, when  
6 illuminated, to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight.

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

19 (g) Any person violating the provisions of subsection (a),  
20 (b), (c), or (d) of this Section who without lawful authority  
21 stops or detains or attempts to stop or detain another person  
22 shall be guilty of a Class 2 felony.

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

26 (Source: P.A. 102-842, eff. 1-1-23; 102-982, eff. 7-1-23;

1 103-154, eff. 6-30-23.)

2 (625 ILCS 5/12-601) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 12-601)

3 Sec. 12-601. Horns and warning devices.

4 (a) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a highway shall  
5 be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of  
6 emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance  
7 of not less than 200 feet, but no horn or other warning device  
8 shall emit an unreasonable loud or harsh sound or a whistle.  
9 The driver of a motor vehicle shall when reasonably necessary  
10 to insure safe operation give audible warning with his horn  
11 but shall not otherwise use such horn when upon a highway.

12 (b) No vehicle shall be equipped with nor shall any person  
13 use upon a vehicle any siren, whistle, or bell, except as  
14 otherwise permitted in this Section. Any authorized emergency  
15 vehicle or organ transport vehicle as defined in Chapter 1 of  
16 this Code or a vehicle operated by a fire chief, deputy fire  
17 chief, assistant fire chief, chief of a Mutual Aid Box Alarm  
18 System, or the Director or Coordinator of a municipal or  
19 county emergency services and disaster agency may be equipped  
20 with a siren, whistle, or bell capable of emitting sound  
21 audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less  
22 than 500 feet, but such siren, whistle, or bell shall not be  
23 used except when such vehicle is operated in response to an  
24 emergency call or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or  
25 suspected violator of the law in either of which events the

1 driver of such vehicle shall sound such siren, whistle, or  
2 bell when necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of  
3 the approach thereof.

4 (c) Trackless trolley coaches, as defined by Section 1-206  
5 of this Code, and replica trolleys, as defined by Section  
6 1-171.04 of this Code, may be equipped with a bell or bells in  
7 lieu of a horn, and may, in addition to the requirements of  
8 subsection (a) of this Section, use a bell or bells for the  
9 purpose of indicating arrival or departure at designated stops  
10 during the hours of scheduled operation.

11 (Source: P.A. 102-448, eff. 1-1-22.)".