

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 Sections 1-105 and 12-215 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/1-105) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 1-105)

7 Sec. 1-105. Authorized emergency vehicle. Emergency
8 vehicles of municipal departments or public service
9 corporations as are designated or authorized by proper local
10 authorities; police vehicles; vehicles of the fire department;
11 vehicles of a HazMat or technical rescue team authorized by a
12 county board under Section 5-1127 of the Counties Code;
13 ambulances; vehicles of the Illinois Department of
14 Corrections; vehicles of the Illinois Department of Juvenile
15 Justice; vehicles of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency;
16 vehicles of the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal; mine
17 rescue and explosives emergency response vehicles of the
18 Department of Natural Resources; vehicles of the Illinois
19 Department of Public Health; vehicles of the Illinois State
20 Toll Highway Authority identified as Highway Emergency Lane
21 Patrol; vehicles of the Illinois Department of Transportation
22 identified as Emergency Traffic Patrol; and vehicles of a
23 municipal or county emergency services and disaster agency, as

1 defined by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.

2 (Source: P.A. 97-149, eff. 7-14-11; 97-333, eff. 7-12-11;
3 98-123, eff. 1-1-14; 98-468, eff. 8-16-13; revised 9-19-13.)

4 (625 ILCS 5/12-215) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 12-215)

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

7 (a) The use of red or white oscillating, rotating or
8 flashing lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited
9 except on:

10 1. Law enforcement vehicles of State, Federal or local
11 authorities;

12 2. A vehicle operated by a police officer or county
13 coroner and designated or authorized by local authorities,
14 in writing, as a law enforcement vehicle; however, such
15 designation or authorization must be carried in the
16 vehicle;

17 2.1. A vehicle operated by a fire chief who has
18 completed an emergency vehicle operation training course
19 approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and
20 designated or authorized by local authorities, in writing,
21 as a fire department, fire protection district, or township
22 fire department vehicle; however, the designation or
23 authorization must be carried in the vehicle, and the
24 lights may be visible or activated only when responding to
25 a bona fide emergency;

1 3. Vehicles of local fire departments and State or
2 federal firefighting vehicles;

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

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

11 6. Vehicles of the Illinois Emergency Management
12 Agency, vehicles of the Office of the Illinois State Fire
13 Marshal, vehicles of the Illinois Department of Public
14 Health, vehicles of the Illinois Department of
15 Corrections, and vehicles of the Illinois Department of
16 Juvenile Justice;

17 7. Vehicles operated by a local or county emergency
18 management services agency as defined in the Illinois
19 Emergency Management Agency Act;

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

22 9. Vehicles that are equipped and used exclusively as
23 organ transplant vehicles when used in combination with
24 blue oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights;
25 furthermore, these lights shall be lighted only when the
26 transportation is declared an emergency by a member of the

1 transplant team or a representative of the organ
2 procurement organization; ~~and~~

3 10. Vehicles of the Illinois Department of Natural
4 Resources that are used for mine rescue and explosives
5 emergency response; ~~and~~

6 11. Vehicles of the Illinois Department of
7 Transportation identified as Emergency Traffic Patrol; the
8 ~~The~~ lights shall not be lighted except when responding to
9 an emergency call or when parked or stationary while
10 engaged in motor vehicle assistance or at the scene of the
11 emergency; and ~~and~~

12 12. Vehicles of the Illinois State Toll Highway
13 Authority identified as Highway Emergency Lane Patrol; the
14 lights shall not be lighted except when responding to an
15 emergency call or when parked or stationary while engaged
16 in motor vehicle assistance or at the scene of the
17 emergency.

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

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

1 transported, the lights shall not be lighted while the
2 vehicle is engaged in towing on a highway; if the towing
3 vehicle is not equipped with a flat bed that supports all
4 wheels of a vehicle being transported, the lights shall be
5 lighted while the towing vehicle is engaged in towing on a
6 highway during all times when the use of headlights is
7 required under Section 12-201 of this Code; in addition,
8 these vehicles may use white oscillating, rotating, or
9 flashing lights in combination with amber oscillating,
10 rotating, or flashing lights as provided in this paragraph;

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

17 3. Vehicles or equipment used by engineering or survey
18 crews; furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted except
19 while such vehicles are actually engaged in work on a
20 highway;

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

1 service or construction on a highway;

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

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

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

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

20 8. Such other vehicles as may be authorized by local
21 authorities;

22 9. Law enforcement vehicles of State or local
23 authorities when used in combination with red oscillating,
24 rotating or flashing lights;

25 9.5. Propane delivery trucks;

26 10. Vehicles used for collecting or delivering mail for

1 the United States Postal Service provided that such lights
2 shall not be lighted except when such vehicles are actually
3 being used for such purposes;

4 10.5. Vehicles of the Office of the Illinois State Fire
5 Marshal, provided that such lights shall not be lighted
6 except for when such vehicles are engaged in work for the
7 Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal;

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

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

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

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

23 15. Vehicles of union representatives, except that the
24 lights shall be lighted only while the vehicle is within
25 the limits of a construction project.

26 (c) The use of blue oscillating, rotating or flashing

1 lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited except on:

2 1. Rescue squad vehicles not owned by a fire department

3 and vehicles owned or operated by a:

4 voluntary firefighter;

5 paid firefighter;

6 part-paid firefighter;

7 call firefighter;

8 member of the board of trustees of a fire
9 protection district;

10 paid or unpaid member of a rescue squad;

11 paid or unpaid member of a voluntary ambulance
12 unit; or

13 paid or unpaid members of a local or county
14 emergency management services agency as defined in the
15 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, designated
16 or authorized by local authorities, in writing, and
17 carrying that designation or authorization in the
18 vehicle.

19 However, such lights are not to be lighted except when
20 responding to a bona fide emergency or when parked or
21 stationary at the scene of a fire, rescue call, ambulance
22 call, or motor vehicle accident.

23 Any person using these lights in accordance with this
24 subdivision (c)1 must carry on his or her person an
25 identification card or letter identifying the bona fide
26 member of a fire department, fire protection district,

1 rescue squad, ambulance unit, or emergency management
2 services agency that owns or operates that vehicle. The
3 card or letter must include:

4 (A) the name of the fire department, fire
5 protection district, rescue squad, ambulance unit, or
6 emergency management services agency;

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 5. Vehicles which are designed and used exclusively as
25 ambulances or rescue vehicles when used in combination with
26 red oscillating, rotating or flashing lights; furthermore,

1 such lights shall not be lighted except when responding to
2 an emergency call.

3 6. Vehicles that are equipped and used exclusively as
4 organ transport vehicles when used in combination with red
5 oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights; furthermore,
6 these lights shall only be lighted when the transportation
7 is declared an emergency by a member of the transplant team
8 or a representative of the organ procurement organization.

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

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

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

24 (c-1) In addition to the blue oscillating, rotating, or
25 flashing lights permitted under subsection (c), and
26 notwithstanding subsection (a), a vehicle operated by a

1 voluntary firefighter, a voluntary member of a rescue squad, or
2 a member of a voluntary ambulance unit may be equipped with
3 flashing white headlights and blue grill lights, which may be
4 used only in responding to an emergency call or when parked or
5 stationary at the scene of a fire, rescue call, ambulance call,
6 or motor vehicle accident.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (Source: P.A. 97-39, eff. 1-1-12; 97-149, eff. 7-14-11; 97-813,
2 eff. 7-13-12; 97-1173, eff. 1-1-14; 98-80, eff. 7-15-13;
3 98-123, eff. 1-1-14; 98-468, eff. 8-16-13; revised 10-17-13.)