

APPROVED AND SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

Date 3-7-79

Time 11:30 A.M.

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1979

ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 94

(By Mr. Colombo)

PASSED February 28, 1979

In Effect ninety days from Passage



No. 94

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Senate Bill No. 94
(By MR. COLOMBO)

[Passed February 28, 1979; in effect ninety days from pasasge.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact section twenty-six, article fifteen, chapter seventeen-c of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to special restrictions on lamps on motor vehicles; authorizing members of volunteer ambulance services or duly chartered rescue squads to have red flashing warning lights on their Class A vehicles under certain conditions; and restricting tow trucks and wreckers to use of amber or yellow flashing warning lights.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section twenty-six, article fifteen, chapter seventeen-c of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 15. EQUIPMENT.

§17C-15-26. Special restrictions on lamps.

1 (a) Any lighted lamp or illuminating device upon a
2 motor vehicle other than head lamps, spot lamps, auxiliary
3 lamps or flashing front-direction signals which projects
4 a beam of light of an intensity greater than three hundred
5 candlepower shall be so directed that no part of the beam
6 will strike the level of the roadway on which the vehicle
7 stands at a distance of more than seventy-five feet from
8 the vehicle.

9 (b) No person shall drive or move any vehicle or
10 equipment upon any highway with any lamp or device
11 thereon displaying other than a white or amber light

12 visible from directly in front of the center thereof except
13 as authorized by subsection (d) of this section.

14 (c) Except as authorized in section nineteen, flashing
15 lights are prohibited on motor vehicles, except on an
16 authorized emergency vehicle, school bus, snow removal
17 equipment or on any vehicle as a means for indicating
18 right or left turn, or on any vehicle as a means of indi-
19 cating the same is disabled or otherwise stopped for an
20 emergency.

21 (d) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this
22 chapter, the following color of flashing warning lights are
23 restricted for the use of the type of vehicle designated:

24 (1) Blue flashing warning lights are restricted to
25 police vehicles, except as authorized by section twenty-
26 seven of this article.

27 (2) Except as authorized by sections nineteen and
28 twenty-seven of this article, red flashing warning lights
29 are restricted to ambulances, fire-fighting vehicles, school
30 buses, Class A vehicles, as defined by section one, article
31 ten, chapter seventeen-a of this code, of those volunteer
32 firemen who are authorized by their fire chiefs to have
33 such lights and to Class A vehicles of members of
34 volunteer ambulance services or duly chartered rescue
35 squads who are authorized by their respective chiefs to
36 have such lights: *Provided*, That red flashing warning
37 lights attached to such Class A vehicles may be operated
38 only when responding to or engaged in handling an
39 emergency requiring the attention of such volunteer
40 firemen or members of such volunteer ambulance services
41 or chartered rescue squads.

42 (3) All other emergency vehicles, including tow
43 trucks and wreckers, authorized by this chapter and by
44 section twenty-seven of this article shall be restricted to
45 amber or yellow flashing warning lights.

46 It shall be unlawful for flashing warning lights of an
47 unauthorized color to be installed or used on a vehicle
48 other than as specified in this section, except that a police
49 vehicle may be equipped with either or both blue or red
50 warning lights.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

James L. Davis
Chairman Senate Committee

Clarence C. Christian
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

To take effect ninety days from passage.

J. C. Willson, Jr.
Clerk of the Senate

C. A. Blankenship
Clerk of the House of Delegates

W. H. Harrison
President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

The within happened this the 1
day of March , 1979.

John L. Rhyne
Governor

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GOV. OF STATE