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OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1989

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ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 2156

(By ~~the~~ Delegate Ashcraft)

— ● —

Passed April 2, 1989

In Effect Ninety Days from Passage

ENROLLED
H. B. 2156
(By DELEGATE ASHCRAFT)

[Passed April 7, 1989; in effect ninety days from passage.]

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 used upon motor vehicles; strobotron lights permitted on county school board vehicles.

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,
3 auxiliary lamps or flashing front-direction signals
4 which projects a beam of light of an intensity greater
5 than three hundred candlepower shall be so directed
6 that no part of the beam will strike the level of the
7 roadway on which the vehicle stands at a distance of
8 more than seventy-five feet from 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
19 indicating the same is disabled or otherwise stopped for
20 an emergency.

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

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

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

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

48 (e) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this
49 section, any vehicle belonging to a county board of
50 education may be equipped with a white flashing

51 strobotron warning light. This strobe light may be
52 installed on the roof of a school bus not to exceed one-
53 third the body length forward from the rear of the roof
54 edge. The light shall have a single clear lens emitting
55 light three hundred sixty degrees around its vertical
56 axis and may not extend above the roof more than six
57 and one-half inches. A manual switch and a pilot light
58 must be included to indicate the light is in operation.

59 It shall be unlawful for flashing warning lights of an
60 unauthorized color to be installed or used on a vehicle
61 other than as specified in this section, except that a
62 police vehicle may be equipped with either or both blue
63 or red warning lights.

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

Frederick L. Parker
Chairman Senate Committee

Bernard V. Kelly
Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

Takes effect ninety days from passage.

Paul C. Whelan
Clerk of the Senate

Donald L. Kopp
Clerk of the House of Delegates

Sam R. Tucker
President of the Senate

Robert M. Chiles
Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within *is* approved this the *21st*
day of *April*, 1989.
Gaston Caperton
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE

GOVERNOR

Date 4/14/89

Time 5108