WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1992

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ENROLLED

COM. SUB. FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 4020

(By Delegates Meza, Testa and Schoonover)

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Passed March 3, 1992

In Effect 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 motor vehicle lamps; removing language requiring all firefighting vehicles to be designated by the fire chief and state fire marshal's office; requiring the fire chief and state fire marshal's office to authorize all fire department vehicles; requiring the squad chief, the sheriff and the department of health and human resources to authorize all rescue squad vehicles not operating out of a fire department; removing language requiring county sheriffs to authorize the use of certain lamps on school buses; and requiring the division of highways to authorize the use of certain lamps on snow removal equipment.

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.

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

(b) No person shall drive or move any vehicle or equipment upon any highway with any lamp or device thereon displaying other than a white or amber light visible from directly in front of the center thereof except as authorized by subsection (d) of this section.

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

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

(1) Blue flashing warning lights are restricted to police vehicles. Authorization for police vehicles shall be designated by the chief administrative official of each police department.

(2) Except for standard vehicle equipment authorized by section nineteen of this article, red flashing warning lights are restricted to ambulances, firefighting vehicles, school buses, Class A vehicles, as defined by section one, article ten, chapter seventeen-a of this code, of those firefighters who are authorized by their fire chiefs to have such lights and to Class A vehicles of members of ambulance services or duly chartered rescue squads who are authorized by their respective chiefs to have such lights: Provided, That red flashing warning lights attached to such Class A vehicles may be operated only when responding to or engaged in handling an emer-
gency requiring the attention of such firefighters or
members of such ambulance services or chartered
rescue squads.

Authorization for all ambulances shall be designated
by the department of health and human resources and
the sheriff of the county of residence.

Authorization for all fire department vehicles shall be
designated by the fire chief and the state fire marshal's
office.

Authorization for all rescue squad vehicles not
operating out of a fire department shall be designated
by the squad chief, the sheriff of the county of residence
and the department of health and human resources.

Authorization for school buses shall be designated as
set out in section twelve, article fourteen, chapter
seventeen-c.

Authorization for firefighters to operate Class A
vehicles shall be designated by their fire chiefs and the
state fire marshal's office.

Authorization for members of ambulance services or
any other emergency medical service personnel to
operate Class A vehicles shall be designated by their
chief official, the department of health and human
resources and the sheriff of the county of residence.

Authorization for members of duly chartered rescue
squads not operating out of a fire department to operate
Class A vehicles shall be designated by their squad
chiefs, the sheriff of the county of residence and the
department of health and human resources.

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

Authorization for tow trucks, wreckers, flag car
services, vehicles providing road service to disabled
vehicles, service vehicles of a public service corporation,
and postal service vehicles shall be designated by the
sheriff of the county of residence. Authorization for
snow removal equipment shall be designated by the
commissioner of the division of highways.

(e) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this
section, any vehicle belonging to a county board of
education may be equipped with a white flashing
strobotron warning light. This strobe light may be
installed on the roof of a school bus not to exceed one-
third the body length forward from the rear of the roof
edge. The light shall have a single clear lens emitting
light three hundred sixty degrees around its vertical
axis and may not extend above the roof more than six
and one-half inches. A manual switch and a pilot light
must be included to indicate the light is in operation.

It shall be unlawful for flashing warning lights of an
unauthorized color to be installed or used on a vehicle
other than as specified in this section, except that a
police vehicle may be equipped with either or both blue
or red warning lights.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Homer Heck  
Chairman Senate Committee

Ernest Moore  
Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

Takes effect from passage.

Donald A. Kapp  
Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate  
Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 17th day of the  

Governor