



SF 331 – Motor Vehicles, Blue Lights (LSB1690SV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

[Senate File 331](#) creates Iowa Code section 321.424, which outlines where authorized emergency vehicles can equip lighting equipment and authorizes the different colors and functions of those lights. In addition, the Bill amends Iowa Code sections [321.423](#) and [321.433](#) by restricting towing or recovery vehicles that are not owned by the State or a municipality from being equipped with red or blue lights or a siren. A fine of \$45 is created within Iowa Code section [805.8A](#)(3) for violations of new Iowa Code section 321.424.

Background

Iowa law currently provides circumstances in which blue, red, white, and amber lights may be used on vehicles. Flashing lights on or in a motor vehicle are prohibited except for the following instances:

- On an authorized emergency vehicle.
- On a vehicle when used to turn, a mechanical failure, or an emergency stop.
- On a vehicle used by a rural mail carrier when stopped or stopping near a highway to deliver mail, or if the shade of the light is between white and amber and mounted as a dome light on top of the vehicle.
- On a vehicle being operated under an excess size permit.
- A blue light under Iowa Code section 321.423(3) and a white light under Iowa Code section 321.423(7).
- Red, amber, and white lights used by school buses as described in Iowa Code sections [321.372](#) and [321.373](#)(7).
- An amber light on a towing or recovery vehicle; utility, municipal, or highway maintenance vehicle; construction vehicle; or certain other vehicles.
- Modulating headlamps on a motorcycle.
- On a vehicle being operated as an escort vehicle for a funeral procession under Iowa Code section [321.324A](#).

Assumptions

There will be an unknown increase in fine and surcharge revenue as a result of SF 331.

Correctional Impact

Senate File 331 creates a new citation under Iowa Code section 805.8A(3). Since the violation of this citation does not result in imprisonment, this Bill is not estimated to have a correctional impact. Refer to the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) memo addressed to the General Assembly, [Cost Estimates Used for Correctional Impact Statements](#), dated January 22, 2021, for information related to the correctional system.

Minority Impact

Senate File 331 establishes a new citation under Iowa Code section 805.8A(3). Since this is a new citation, it is unknown how many violations there may be, and as a result, the minority

impact is unknown. Refer to the LSA memo addressed to the General Assembly, [Minority Impact Statement](#), dated January 27, 2021, for information related to minorities in the criminal justice system.

Fiscal Impact

Since SF 331 establishes a new citation, there may be an increase in fine and surcharge revenue, but the impact is unknown. **Table 1** shows the distribution of fine revenue for one citation of the scheduled violation established under this Bill.

Table 1 — Fine and Surcharge Revenue Distribution

Code Section	Scheduled Fine	15.0% Crime Services Surcharge	Fine Distribution		15.0% Crime Services Surcharge Distribution				Court Costs
			91.0% to State General Fund/EMS* Fund	9.0% to County	32.0% to Victim Comp. Fund	20.0% to Criminalistics Lab Fund	2.0% to DARE** Fund	46.0% to Juvenile Home Detention Fund	
805.8A(3)(ac)	\$45	\$6.75	\$40.95	\$4.05	\$2.16	\$1.35	\$0.14	\$3.11	\$55.00

*Emergency Medical Services Fund (EMS) ** Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE)

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
