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**SF 75** – Transportation Winter Light Pilot (LSB1334SV.2)  
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Fiscal Note Version – As amended and passed by the Senate

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**Description**

**Senate File 75**, as amended by the Senate, adds blue and white flashing lights to the color lights that maintenance vehicles may display when conducting snow removal. The blue and white lights may be placed on motor trucks, trailers, tractors, truck-mounted snow blowers, or motor graders owned by the Department of Transportation (DOT). The equipment must be rear facing and used in snow removal. Motorists will be required to move to a nonadjacent lane or slow down and be prepared to stop for blue and white flashing lights, in addition to flashing yellow, amber, and red lights. The Bill requires the DOT to document the effectiveness of blue and white lights, and to rely on existing staff and accident reporting systems. Changes made in this Bill are repealed on July 1, 2019.

**Background**

Currently, the lights the DOT may place on vehicles are established in Iowa Code section **321.323A**. Authorized lights include flashing yellow, amber, and red lights. The use of other lights requires a statutory change. Motorists are currently required to move to a nonadjacent lane or slow down and be prepared to stop for flashing yellow, amber, and red lights. The DOT is required to use existing resources to study the impact of blue and white flashing lights on accidents.

**Assumptions**

The DOT intends to implement a pilot study of blue and white flashing lights in **District 1**. The DOT identified 175 snow plows that will have additional flashing lights installed. Materials to upgrade each truck are estimated to be \$600. The intent of the study is to determine if rear-facing blue and white flashing lights reduce rear and side impact crashes with DOT snowplows, thereby reducing costs related to damage repairs, personal injuries, and private property damage.

**Fiscal Impact**

This Bill, as amended, will have no impact to the State General Fund. The cost of equipping snowplows with rear-facing blue and white lights will increase expenditures from the Equipment Revolving Fund by \$105,000 in FY 2016. The impact on fine revenue is unknown but is expected to be minimal.

**Source**

DOT

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/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 30, 2015