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**HF 2198** – Snow Plow Lights, White and Blue, Permanency (LSB5325HV)  
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Fiscal Note Version – New

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**Description**

[House File 2198](#) repeals sections of Iowa Code section [321.423](#) that sunset the provisions on the pilot program permitting the Department of Transportation (DOT) to install rear-facing blue and white lights on snow removal equipment.

**Background**

Under 2015 Iowa Acts, ch. [81](#) (Snow and Ice Treatment and Removal — Lighting Devices and Reflectors Act), the General Assembly authorized the DOT to install rear-facing blue and white lights in addition to the existing amber lights on some snow removal equipment in order to examine if the updated lights would reduce collision accidents. The DOT installed the lights on 170 vehicles in Highway District 1, which is located in central Iowa.

Prior to installation of the new lighting design, crash rates for snow removal equipment averaged one for every 2,801 hours of operation in 2014-2015 winter months. During the pilot program, crash rates were reduced to one crash for every 8,813 hours of operation during the 2016-2017 winter months.

Under current law, the pilot program will be repealed on July 1, 2019.

**Assumptions**

[House File 2198](#) will allow the DOT to continue installing rear-facing blue and white lights on the remaining 670 snow removal vehicles at a cost of \$500 per vehicle.

**Fiscal Impact**

Installation of the lights on the remaining snow removal equipment is expected to cost the Highway Division of the DOT \$335,000 in FY 2019. The DOT will fund the installation through existing appropriations to the Division. The Highway Division is funded by appropriations from the Primary Road Fund.

**Source**

Iowa Department of Transportation

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/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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