

FEB 13 1998
TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE FILE 2256
BY RICHARDSON

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act specifying lighting equipment and other features for
2 snowplows, regulating snowplow operations, and making
3 penalties applicable.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2256

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 321.423A SNOWPLOWS AND SNOW
2 REMOVAL VEHICLES -- EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION.

3 1. All bid specifications for snowplows or other snow
4 removal vehicles purchased by the state or a political
5 subdivision of the state on or after July 1, 1998, shall
6 require that the vehicles be equipped to enhance visibility of
7 the vehicle by other motorists with at least the following:

8 a. A dual-bulb, rotating beacon with three-hundred-sixty-
9 degree visibility, mounted on the top of the vehicle.

10 b. Reflective tape along the sides and rear of the
11 vehicle.

12 c. When the snowplow blade is attached to the vehicle,
13 accessory snowplow headlights on the vehicle to be no higher
14 than eighty inches and no lower than forty-eight inches from
15 the ground, and the accessory snowplow headlight bulbs to be
16 no more than sixty-eight inches and no less than forty inches
17 apart.

18 2. An operator of a snowplow or other snow removal vehicle
19 shall activate the rotating beacon when the snowplow blade is
20 attached to the vehicle.

21 EXPLANATION

22 This bill requires all public agency bid specifications for
23 new snowplows and other snow removal vehicles to be purchased
24 on or after July 1, 1998, to include a requirement that the
25 vehicles be equipped with a minimum level of lights and other
26 features to improve visibility of the snow removal vehicle by
27 other drivers. The minimum equipment is a dual-bulb, rotating
28 beacon mounted on the top of the vehicle and visible over 360
29 degrees of motion which must be activated when the snowplow is
30 attached to the vehicle. Reflective tape on the sides and
31 rear of the vehicle is also required. The bill also requires
32 that when the snowplow blade is attached, the accessory
33 headlights are to be no higher than 80 inches and no lower
34 than 48 inches from the ground. In addition, the accessory
35 headlights are to be no more than 68 inches but no less than

1 40 inches apart. Failure to comply with the provisions of the
2 bill by a person preparing the bid specifications and
3 operating a snow removal vehicle would constitute a simple
4 misdemeanor pursuant to section 321.482.

5 The bill may contain a state mandate in accordance with
6 Code section 25B.2. Code section 25B.2 provides that a
7 political subdivision is not required to comply with a state
8 mandate unless funding for the cost of the state mandate is
9 provided or the percentage of the mandate which will be funded
10 is specified by the general assembly.

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**HOUSE FILE 2256
FISCAL NOTE**

A fiscal note for House File 2256 is hereby submitted pursuant to Joint Rule 17. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to members of the Legislature upon request.

House File 2256 requires certain safety features be added to snowplows and other snow removal vehicles purchased after July 1, 1998. The equipment includes a dual bulb, rotating beacon mounted on the top of the vehicle, and the application of reflective tape on the sides and rear of the vehicle.

FISCAL IMPACT

House File 2256 will not have a fiscal effect on the Department of Transportation. The Bill will likely increase expenditures on city and county governments that would not have otherwise purchased the required equipment on new snowplows and related equipment. The number of snowplows and related equipment purchased annually by cities and counties is not known, therefore, the estimated cost cannot be determined. However, the increased cost per vehicle is estimated to be \$498.

Source: Department of Transportation
Iowa Association of Counties
League of Iowa Cities

(LSB 3028hh, DLR)

FILED FEBRUARY 19, 1998

BY DENNIS PROUTY, FISCAL DIRECTOR