

**Senate File 2003 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2003  
BY SCHOENJAHN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for the use of flashing white lights on motor  
2 vehicles owned by certain on-call health care professionals,  
3 and making a penalty applicable.

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

1       Section 1. Section 321.423, subsection 1, Code 2011, is  
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3        NEW PARAGRAPH.  *0c.* “*Health care professional*” means as  
4 defined in section 135.157.

5 Sec. 2. Section 321.423, subsection 7, paragraph a, Code  
6 2011, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

7        NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (4) On a vehicle authorized by the  
8 director of public health when all of the following apply:

9       (a) The vehicle is owned by a health care professional who  
10 is employed by a hospital licensed under chapter 135B.

11 (b) The request is made by the health care professional on  
12 forms provided by the department of public health.

13 (c) The necessity for authorization is demonstrated in the  
14 request.

15 (d) The hospital certifies that the health care  
16 professional is an employee in good standing; certifies that

17 in the regular course of employment with the hospital, the  
18 health care professional is required to be on-call for medical  
19 emergencies; and recommends that the authorization be granted.

20 Sec. 3. Section 321.423, subsection 7, paragraph b, Code  
21 2011, is amended to read as follows:

22       b. The Iowa department of public health shall adopt  
23 rules to establish issuance standards, including allowing  
24 hospitals and local emergency medical service providers to  
25 issue certificates of authorization, and shall adopt rules to  
26 establish certificate of authorization revocation procedures.

## **EXPLANATION**

28 This bill allows certain on-call health care professionals  
29 employed by a licensed hospital to use flashing white lights on  
30 a personal motor vehicle when responding to an emergency. The  
31 bill defines "health care professional" to mean a person who is  
32 licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized or permitted by  
33 the law of this state to administer health care in the ordinary  
34 course of business or in the practice of a profession.

35 Under the bill, the director of public health may authorize

1 the use of flashing white lights on a vehicle owned by a health  
2 care professional in a manner similar to the process currently  
3 in place for members of an ambulance, rescue, or first response  
4 service. The health care professional's application to the  
5 department of public health must demonstrate a necessity  
6 for authorization. The hospital that employs the health  
7 care professional must recommend that the authorization be  
8 granted and must certify that the health care professional is  
9 an employee in good standing and, in the regular course of  
10 employment, is required to be on-call for medical emergencies.

11 The bill authorizes the department to adopt rules  
12 establishing standards for the issuance of certificates of  
13 authorization by hospitals and establishing procedures for  
14 revocation of certificates of authorization.

15 The authorized use of flashing white lights on a motor  
16 vehicle identifies the vehicle as being operated in the course  
17 of an emergency, but does not authorize the driver to operate  
18 the vehicle in violation of traffic laws. Pursuant to current  
19 law, the unauthorized use of flashing white lights on a motor  
20 vehicle is a simple misdemeanor punishable by a scheduled fine  
21 of \$30.