

House File 139 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 139

BY STECKMAN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring the use of headlights or daytime running lamps
2 on a motor vehicle during periods of moisture accumulation
3 or windshield wiper use, and making a penalty applicable.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.384, Code 2013, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 **321.384 When lighted lamps required.**

4 1. ~~Every~~ A motor vehicle upon operated on a highway within
5 ~~the state, at any time from~~ shall display lighted headlamps
6 as provided in section 321.415 during the following times,
7 subject to exceptions under this chapter with respect to parked
8 vehicles:

9 a. From sunset to sunrise, and at such other times when.

10 b. Whenever conditions such as fog, snow, sleet, or rain
11 provide insufficient lighting to render clearly discernible
12 persons and vehicles on the highway at a distance of five
13 hundred feet ahead, ~~shall display lighted headlamps as provided~~
14 ~~in section 321.415, subject to exceptions with respect to~~
15 ~~parked vehicles as hereinafter stated.~~

16 2. a. A motor vehicle operated on a highway shall display
17 lighted headlamps, as provided in section 321.415, or daytime
18 running lamps whenever there is moisture accumulating on
19 the windshield due to misting, light rain, or other weather
20 conditions or whenever the motor vehicle's windshield wipers
21 are activated to improve visibility.

22 b. For purposes of this subsection, "daytime running lamps"
23 means a pair of lamps on the front of a motor vehicle which meet
24 the standard for daytime running lamps described in 49 C.F.R.
25 § 571.108.

26 ~~2.~~ 3. Whenever A requirement is hereinafter declared as
27 ~~to~~ in this chapter regarding the distance from which certain
28 lamps and devices shall render objects visible or within which
29 such lamps or devices shall be visible, ~~said provisions shall~~
30 apply during the times stated in subsection 1 of this section,
31 paragraphs "a" and "b", upon a straight level unlighted highway
32 under normal atmospheric conditions unless a different time or
33 condition is expressly stated.

34 Sec. 2. Section 321.415, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph
35 1, Code 2013, is amended to read as follows:

1 Whenever a motor vehicle is being operated on a roadway
2 or shoulder during the times specified in section 321.384,
3 unless the motor vehicle is displaying daytime running lamps
4 as permitted under section 321.384, subsection 2, the driver
5 shall use a distribution of light, or composite beam, directed
6 high enough and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and
7 vehicles at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle, subject
8 to the following requirements and limitations:

9

EXPLANATION

10 This bill amends Code section 321.384 to require the
11 operator of a motor vehicle to display lighted headlamps or
12 daytime running lamps on the vehicle whenever there is moisture
13 accumulating on the windshield due to misting, light rain,
14 or other weather conditions or whenever the motor vehicle's
15 windshield wipers are activated to improve visibility.
16 Currently, the use of headlamps is required from sunset to
17 sunrise and at all other times when conditions such as fog,
18 snow, sleet, or rain provide insufficient lighting to clearly
19 see 500 feet ahead.

20 The penalty that currently applies to a violation of
21 requirements for headlight use applies to the new requirements
22 under the bill. A violation is a simple misdemeanor,
23 punishable by a scheduled fine of \$30.

24 The following Code sections contain provisions which are
25 linked to the times when headlamps are required under Code
26 section 321.384 and are therefore affected indirectly by the
27 bill:

28 Code section 321.235A, which requires the use of a headlight
29 and a rear reflector on an electric personal assistive mobility
30 device.

31 Code section 321.392, which requires the use of certain
32 lighting devices and reflectors on motor trucks.

33 Code section 321.394, which requires a red light to be
34 displayed on projecting loads.

35 Code section 321.395, which requires lighting on vehicles

1 stopped on an unlighted roadway or shoulder.

2 Code sections 321.397, 321.398, and 321.418, which describe
3 lighting requirements for bicycles, animal drawn vehicles, and
4 slow-moving vehicles.

5 Code section 321.405, which requires self-illumination of
6 mechanical signal devices.

7 Code sections 321.415 and 321.419, which provide
8 specifications for headlamps.