

House File 501 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 501

BY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 137)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the operation of a rescue vehicle when
2 responding to an emergency.

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

1 Section 1. Section 321.231, subsections 3 and 4, Code 2015,
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 3. The driver of a fire department vehicle, police vehicle,
4 rescue vehicle, or ambulance, or a peace officer riding a
5 police bicycle in the line of duty may do any of the following:

6 a. Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only
7 after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation.

8 b. Exceed the maximum speed limits so long as the driver
9 does not endanger life or property.

10 4. The exemptions granted to an authorized emergency
11 vehicle under subsection 2 and for a fire department vehicle,
12 police vehicle, rescue vehicle, or ambulance as provided in
13 subsection 3 shall apply only when such vehicle is making use
14 of an audible signaling device meeting the requirements of
15 section 321.433 or a visual signaling device, except that use
16 of an audible or visual signaling device shall not be required
17 when exercising the exemption granted under subsection 3,
18 paragraph "b" of this section when the vehicle is operated by
19 a peace officer, pursuing a suspected violator of the speed
20 restrictions imposed by or pursuant to this chapter, for the
21 purpose of determining the speed of travel of such suspected
22 violator.

23 EXPLANATION

24 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
25 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

26 Under current law, the driver of an authorized emergency
27 vehicle may exercise driving privileges relating to parking
28 and directional signs when responding to an emergency call.
29 Certain types of authorized emergency vehicles including fire
30 department vehicles, police vehicles, and ambulances, as well
31 as peace officers riding on police bicycles, may proceed past
32 red stop signals or stop signs and exceed speed limits while
33 exercising necessary safety precautions and using an audible
34 or visual signal. This bill includes rescue vehicles in that
35 category of authorized emergency vehicles that may ignore red

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1 stop signals or stop signs and exceed speed limits in emergency
2 situations. A "rescue vehicle" is a motor vehicle which is
3 equipped with rescue, fire, or life support equipment used to
4 assist and rescue persons in emergencies or support emergency
5 personnel in the performance of their duties.