

House File 2302 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2302
BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2158)

(COMPANION TO LSB 5683SV BY
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the operation of rescue vehicles when
2 responding to an emergency, and making penalties applicable.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.1, subsection 62, Code 2018, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 62. "Rescue vehicle" means a motor vehicle which is equipped
4 with rescue, fire, ~~or~~ life support, hazardous material, or
5 emergency management equipment used to assist and rescue
6 persons in emergencies or support emergency personnel in the
7 performance of their duties.

8 Sec. 2. Section 321.231, subsections 3 and 4, Code 2018, are
9 amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

31

EXPLANATION

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

34 Under current law, a "rescue vehicle" is a motor vehicle
35 which is equipped with rescue, fire, or life support equipment

1 used to assist and rescue persons in emergencies or support
2 emergency personnel in the performance of their duties. This
3 bill amends current law to provide that "rescue vehicle" also
4 includes a motor vehicle which is equipped with hazardous
5 material or emergency management equipment used to assist and
6 rescue persons in emergencies or support emergency personnel in
7 the performance of their duties.

8 Under current law, the driver of an authorized emergency
9 vehicle may exercise certain driving privileges relating to
10 parking and directional signs when responding to an emergency
11 call. In addition, certain types of authorized emergency
12 vehicles including fire department vehicles, police vehicles,
13 and ambulances, as well as peace officers riding on police
14 bicycles, may proceed past red stop signals or stop signs
15 and exceed speed limits while exercising necessary safety
16 precautions and using an audible or visual signal. The bill
17 includes rescue vehicles in the list of authorized emergency
18 vehicles that may ignore red stop signals or stop signs and
19 exceed speed limits in emergency situations. Under current
20 law, a violation of Code section 321.231 is punishable by a
21 scheduled fine of \$100.