A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to lighting devices and other equipment on snow plows and authorized emergency vehicles.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
Section 1. Section 321.393, subsections 4 and 5, Code 2019, are amended to read as follows:

4. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit the use of a lighting device or reflector displaying an amber light when such lighting device or reflector is mounted on a motor truck, trailer, tractor, or motor grader owned by the state, or any political subdivision of the state, or any municipality therein including any local authority, while such equipment is being used for snow removal, sanding, maintenance, or repair of the public streets or highways.

5. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit the use of a lighting device or reflector displaying an amber, white, or blue light when the lighting device or reflector is rear-facing and mounted on a motor truck, trailer, tractor, truck-mounted snow blower, or motor grader owned by the department state or any political subdivision of the state, including any local authority, while the equipment is being used for snow and ice treatment or removal on the public streets or highways.

Sec. 2. Section 321.423, subsection 2, paragraph f, Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

f. A flashing white light, including a flashing headlamp, is permitted on a vehicle pursuant to subsection 7.

Sec. 3. Section 321.423, subsection 3, paragraph a, subparagraph (3), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

(3) An authorized emergency vehicle, other than a vehicle described in paragraph “a”, subparagraph (1) or (2), if the blue light is positioned on the passenger side of the vehicle and is used in conjunction with a red light positioned on the driver side of the vehicle.

Sec. 4. Section 321.423, subsection 3, paragraph a, subparagraph (4), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

(4) A motor truck, trailer, tractor, truck-mounted snow blower, or motor grader owned by the department state or any political subdivision of the state, including any local
authority, if the blue light is rear-facing and used in conjunction with amber and white lighting devices or reflectors while the equipment is being used for snow and ice treatment or removal on the public streets or highways.

Sec. 5. Section 321.423, subsection 7, paragraph a, subparagraph (4), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

(4) On a motor truck, trailer, tractor, truck-mounted snow blower, or motor grader owned by the department state or any political subdivision of the state, including any local authority, if the white light is rear-facing and used in conjunction with amber and blue lighting devices or reflectors while the equipment is being used for snow and ice treatment or removal on the public streets or highways.

Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 321.424 Authorized emergency vehicle lights.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary:

1. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a combination of interior and exterior lights, flashing headlamps, and flashing tail lamps as provided in this section and in this chapter.

2. An official law enforcement, fire department, or emergency medical services vehicle owned by the state or a municipality, as defined in section 670.1, may be equipped with flashing headlamps.

3. An authorized emergency vehicle owned by the state, a municipality, as defined in section 670.1, or a private emergency medical services company delivering services to the state, a municipality, or a hospital pursuant to a written contract, or a privately owned vehicle designated as an authorized emergency vehicle pursuant to section 321.451, may be equipped with a combination of operational red and blue lights. However, a towing or recovery vehicle, unless owned by the state or a municipality, shall not be equipped with red and blue lights.

4. An authorized emergency vehicle equipped with an
interior or exterior light bar may position front and rear
facing red lights on the driver's side of the vehicle and front
and rear facing blue lights on the passenger's side of the
vehicle.

5. An authorized emergency vehicle equipped with an
interior or exterior light bar with red and blue flashing
lights may be equipped with flashing or solid white lights
scattered among or between a clear or colored lens that
displays a red or blue flashing light.

6. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with one
or more lights capable of emitting a split red and blue steady
or flashing light, which may be mounted on or in the vehicle.

7. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with one
or more lights on the side of the vehicle capable of emitting
red and blue light, red and white light, or blue and white
light.

8. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with one
or more lights with a clear or colored lens.

9. An official law enforcement, fire, rescue, or emergency
medical services vehicle may be equipped with lights or
light bars containing one or more rear zone amber lights or
amber directional arrows, which shall be in addition to any
other required lighting equipment. An authorized emergency
vehicle shall not be equipped with an amber light positioned
on the front or side of the vehicle. However, an aerial fire
apparatus may be equipped with amber flashing lights on the
outriggers of the apparatus.

10. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with
one or more steady, oscillating, or flashing white lights,
flashing headlamps, or flashing reverse lamps, which shall be
in addition to any other required lighting equipment. A light
bar shall not be equipped or used to display flashing white
lights visible from the rear of the vehicle. This subsection
shall not be construed to prohibit an authorized emergency
vehicle owned by the state or a municipality, as defined in
section 670.1, from being equipped with or using a spotlight or exterior light bar capable of displaying a steady white light for use as a work light, alley light, search light, or take down light.

11. An authorized emergency vehicle owned by a state or a municipality, as defined in section 670.1, that is primarily used as an incident command vehicle may be equipped with one or more steady or flashing green lights, which shall be in addition to any other required lighting equipment. A steady or flashing green light equipped pursuant to this subsection shall not be activated unless the vehicle is being used as a stationary incident command post at the location of an emergency incident, an official training exercise, or for maintenance or demonstration purposes.

Sec. 7. Section 321.433, Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

321.433 Sirens, whistles, and bells prohibited.

1. A vehicle shall not be equipped with and a person shall not use upon a vehicle any siren, whistle, or bell, except as otherwise permitted in this section. It is permissible but not required that any commercial vehicle be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal. Any authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than five hundred feet, but the siren, whistle, or bell shall not be used except when the vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, and the driver of the vehicle shall sound the siren, whistle, or bell when necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the approach of the vehicle.

2. A towing or recovery vehicle, unless owned by the state or a municipality, as defined in section 670.1, shall not be equipped with a siren.
EXPLANATION

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

2 In 2015, the general assembly authorized motor trucks, trailers, tractors, truck-mounted snow blowers, and motor graders owned by the department of transportation and used for snow and ice treatment or removal to display rear-facing blue and white lighting devices or reflectors in conjunction with amber lighting devices or reflectors. These authorizations were set to be repealed July 1, 2019. In 2018, the general assembly struck these future repeal provisions.

3 This bill applies those authorizations to such vehicles owned by the state or any political subdivision of the state, including any local authority. Under Code chapter 321, a "local authority" is any county, municipal, and other local board or body having authority to adopt local police regulations under the constitution and laws of the state.

4 The bill allows authorized emergency vehicles to be equipped with a variety of lighting devices, including flashing headlamps, red and blue lights, flashing or solid white lights, split red and blue steady or flashing lights, and lights or light bars containing one or more rear zone amber lights or amber directional arrows. In addition, an incident command vehicle may be equipped with one or more steady or flashing green lights. However, a towing or recovery vehicle, unless owned by the state or a municipality, is prohibited from being equipped with red and blue lights and a siren.