

**House File 654 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 654

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 189)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to lighting devices and other equipment on  
2 snow plows and authorized emergency vehicles, providing  
3 penalties, making penalties applicable, and including  
4 effective date provisions.

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

1 Section 1. Section 321.393, subsections 4 and 5, Code 2021,  
2 are amended to read as follows:

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

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

20 Sec. 2. Section 321.423, subsection 2, paragraph f, Code  
21 2021, is amended to read as follows:

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

24 Sec. 3. Section 321.423, subsection 3, paragraph a,  
25 subparagraphs (3) and (4), Code 2021, are amended to read as  
26 follows:

27 (3) An authorized emergency vehicle, other than a vehicle  
28 described in paragraph "a", subparagraph (1) or (2), ~~if the blue~~  
29 ~~light is positioned on the passenger side of the vehicle and is~~  
30 ~~used in conjunction with a red light positioned on the driver~~  
31 ~~side of the vehicle.~~

32 (4) A motor truck, trailer, tractor, truck-mounted snow  
33 blower, or motor grader owned by the ~~department~~ state or  
34 any political subdivision of the state, including any local  
35 authority, if the blue light is rear-facing and used in

1 conjunction with amber and white lighting devices or reflectors  
2 while the equipment is being used for snow and ice treatment or  
3 removal on the public streets or highways.

4 Sec. 4. Section 321.423, subsection 7, paragraph a,  
5 subparagraph (4), Code 2021, is amended to read as follows:

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

13 Sec. 5. Section 321.423, subsection 7, paragraph a, Code  
14 2021, is amended by adding the following new subparagraphs:

15 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (5) On a motor truck or trailer owned  
16 and operated by the department equipped with an impact  
17 attenuator and audible warning system, if the flashing white  
18 light is rear-facing on the audible warning system and used in  
19 conjunction with amber lighting devices or reflectors while  
20 the motor truck or trailer is being used for slow-moving  
21 maintenance operations.

22 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (6) On a vehicle or other equipment  
23 not owned and operated by the department when used in road  
24 work zones on state or local highways as authorized by the  
25 department. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to  
26 chapter 17A regarding the vehicles or equipment eligible to use  
27 a flashing white light under this subparagraph.

28 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. **321.424 Authorized emergency vehicle**  
29 **lights.**

30 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary:

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

35 2. An official law enforcement, fire department, emergency

1 medical services, or emergency management vehicle owned by the  
2 state or a municipality, as defined in section 670.1, may be  
3 equipped with flashing headlamps.

4 3. An authorized emergency vehicle owned by the state,  
5 a municipality, as defined in section 670.1, or a private  
6 emergency medical services company delivering services to the  
7 state, a municipality, or a hospital pursuant to a written  
8 contract, or a privately owned vehicle designated as an  
9 authorized emergency vehicle pursuant to section 321.451, shall  
10 be equipped with a combination of operational red and blue  
11 lights.

12 4. An authorized emergency vehicle equipped with an  
13 interior or exterior light bar must have the light bar  
14 positioned such that front and rear facing red lights are on  
15 the driver's side of the vehicle and front and rear facing blue  
16 lights are on the passenger's side of the vehicle.

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

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

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

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

31 9. An official law enforcement, fire, rescue, emergency  
32 medical services, or emergency management vehicle may be  
33 equipped with lights or light bars containing one or more rear  
34 zone amber lights or amber directional arrows, which shall  
35 be in addition to any other required lighting equipment. An

1 authorized emergency vehicle shall not be equipped with an  
2 amber light positioned on the front or side of the vehicle.  
3 However, an aerial fire apparatus may be equipped with amber  
4 flashing lights on the outriggers of the apparatus.

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

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

27 12. An official fire department or emergency medical  
28 services vehicle purchased, delivered, or refurbished on or  
29 after July 1, 2021, shall be equipped with a master warning  
30 switch to activate all emergency lights on the vehicle, in  
31 addition to one or more switches to separately activate or  
32 isolate the front, side, and rear warning lights.

33 Sec. 7. Section 321.433, Code 2021, is amended to read as  
34 follows:

35 **321.433 Sirens, whistles, and bells prohibited.**



1 the general assembly struck these future repeal provisions.

2 This bill applies those authorizations to such vehicles  
3 owned by the state or any political subdivision of the  
4 state, including any local authority. Under Code chapter  
5 321, a "local authority" is any county, municipal, and other  
6 local board or body having authority to adopt local police  
7 regulations under the constitution and laws of the state.

8 The bill allows authorized emergency vehicles to be equipped  
9 with a variety of lighting devices, including flashing  
10 headlamps, flashing or solid white lights, split red and blue  
11 steady or flashing lights, and lights or light bars containing  
12 one or more rear zone amber lights or amber directional arrows.  
13 The bill includes as vehicles authorized to use a flashing  
14 white light motor trucks or trailers owned and operated by the  
15 DOT equipped with an impact attenuator and audible warning  
16 system, if the flashing white light is rear-facing on the  
17 audible warning system and used in conjunction with amber  
18 lighting devices or reflectors while the motor truck or trailer  
19 is being used for slow-moving maintenance operations, and  
20 vehicles or other equipment not owned and operated by the DOT  
21 when used in road work zones on state or local highways as  
22 authorized by the DOT.

23 The bill requires authorized emergency vehicles to be  
24 equipped with a combination of operational red and blue lights,  
25 and if equipped with a light bar, requires the light bar to  
26 be positioned such that the front and rear facing red lights  
27 are on the driver's side of the vehicle and the front and rear  
28 facing blue lights are on the passenger's side of the vehicle.  
29 The bill also requires an official fire department or emergency  
30 medical services vehicle purchased, delivered, or refurbished  
31 on or after July 1, 2021, to be equipped with a master warning  
32 switch to activate all emergency lights on the vehicle, in  
33 addition to one or more switches to separately activate or  
34 isolate the front, side, and rear warning lights. In addition,  
35 an incident command vehicle may be equipped with one or more

1 steady or flashing green lights. A towing or recovery vehicle  
2 may be equipped with red and blue lights. However, unless  
3 owned by the state or a municipality, a towing or recovery  
4 vehicle is prohibited from being equipped with a siren.

5 Under current law, a violation of Code section 321.423 or  
6 321.433 is punishable by a scheduled fine of \$45. The bill  
7 provides that violations of Code section 321.424 are also  
8 punishable by a scheduled fine of \$45.

9 The bill takes effect upon enactment.