

House File 938 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 938
BY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 728)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to police, fire department, and other emergency
2 vehicles.

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

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 321.231, subsection 3, unnumbered
2 paragraph 1, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

3 The driver of an ~~official~~ a fire department vehicle, police
4 vehicle, rescue vehicle, ambulance, emergency medical services
5 vehicle, or emergency management vehicle, or a peace officer
6 riding a police bicycle in the line of duty, may do any of the
7 following:

8 Sec. 2. Section 321.231, subsection 5, paragraph a, Code
9 2025, is amended to read as follows:

10 a. The exemptions granted to the driver of an authorized
11 emergency vehicle under subsection 2 and to the driver of
12 an ~~official~~ a fire department vehicle, police vehicle, rescue
13 vehicle, ambulance, emergency medical services vehicle, or
14 emergency management vehicle as provided in subsection 3 shall
15 apply only when such vehicle is making use of an audible warning
16 device meeting the requirements of section 321.433 or a visual
17 signaling device authorized under this chapter.

18 Sec. 3. Section 321.424, subsections 2, 9, and 12, Code 2025,
19 are amended to read as follows:

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

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

33 12. An ~~official~~ A fire department vehicle or emergency
34 medical services vehicle purchased, delivered, or refurbished
35 on or after July 1, 2021, shall be equipped with a master

1 warning switch to activate all emergency lights on the vehicle,
2 in addition to one or more switches to separately activate or
3 isolate the front, side, and rear warning lights.

4 Sec. 4. Section 321.433, subsection 5, Code 2025, is amended
5 to read as follows:

6 5. ~~An official~~ A fire department vehicle, emergency medical
7 services program vehicle, or law enforcement vehicle owned by
8 the state, a municipality, as defined in section 670.1, or
9 a corporation providing emergency medical services, that was
10 purchased, delivered, or refurbished on or after July 1, 2022,
11 excluding an all-terrain vehicle or a special service vehicle,
12 shall be equipped with an electric or electronic siren capable
13 of emitting at least two distinct siren tones, and one or more
14 compatible siren speakers.

15 EXPLANATION

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

18 This bill amends provisions in Code chapter 321 (motor
19 vehicles and law of the road) by striking the word "official"
20 when it precedes lists of authorized emergency vehicles and
21 other similar vehicles. The bill does not amend the rights and
22 responsibilities of a person who operates such a vehicle.