

House File 98 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 98
BY MEGGERS

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to operators of motor vehicles approaching
- 2 certain slow-moving authorized emergency vehicles, and making
- 3 penalties applicable.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 321.323A, subsection 1, unnumbered
2 paragraph 1, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

3 The operator of a motor vehicle approaching a stationary
4 or slow-moving authorized emergency vehicle that is displaying
5 flashing lights, as permitted under section 321.423, shall
6 approach the authorized emergency vehicle with due caution and
7 shall proceed in one of the following manners, absent any other
8 direction by a peace officer:

9 Sec. 2. Section 321.323A, Code 2025, is amended by adding the
10 following new subsection:

11 NEW SUBSECTION. 5. For purposes of this section,
12 "slow-moving" means that a vehicle is being operated at a speed
13 of fifteen miles per hour or less on, along, or adjacent to the
14 roadway by a person in connection with the person's official job
15 duties.

16 EXPLANATION

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

19 Under current law, Code section 321.323A requires the operator
20 of a motor vehicle approaching a stationary authorized emergency
21 vehicle that is displaying flashing lights to approach the
22 vehicle with due caution and make a lane change into a lane
23 not adjacent to the vehicle if possible in the existing safety
24 and traffic conditions, or if a lane change would be impossible,
25 prohibited by law, or unsafe, reduce the speed of the motor
26 vehicle to a reasonable and proper speed for the existing
27 road and traffic conditions, which speed must be less than
28 the posted speed limit, and be prepared to stop. This bill
29 applies these requirements when approaching slow-moving (15 miles
30 per hour or less) authorized emergency vehicles. The bill
31 does not amend similar cautionary approach requirements relating
32 to stationary towing or recovery vehicles, utility maintenance
33 vehicles, municipal maintenance vehicles, highway maintenance
34 vehicles, construction vehicles, and solid waste or recycling
35 collection service vehicles.

1 A violation of Code section 321.323A is a simple misdemeanor
2 punishable by a scheduled fine of \$135. By operation of law, a
3 person convicted of a violation of Code section 321.323A which
4 resulted in an accident causing bodily injury to or the death of
5 another person may be subject to additional penalties including
6 a fine of \$500 for a violation causing bodily injury to another
7 person and a fine of \$1,000 for a violation causing death. The
8 department of transportation is required to suspend the driver's
9 license of a person who is convicted of violating Code section
10 321.323A for 90 days if the violation caused damage to the
11 property of another person; 180 days if the violation caused
12 bodily injury to another person; and one year if the violation
13 caused death.

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