SENATE FILE 551
BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 503)

(As Amended and Passed by the Senate March 17, 2021)

_____ and [= New Language by the Senate

A BILL FOR

An Act relating to fire fighters and emergency medical services members responding to emergency situations in certain vehicles.

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

Section 1. NEW SECTION. **321.231A Fire fighters and emergency medical services members responding to emergency situations.**

1. Notwithstanding section 321.231, the driver of a vehicle making use of a blue light pursuant to section 321.423, subsection 3, or displaying fire fighter or emergency medical services registration plates issued pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 10 or 10A, may reasonably exceed the maximum speed limits based on the facts and circumstances at the time, only if all of the following apply:

a. The driver is a current member of a paid or volunteer fire department or emergency medical services agency.

b. The driver is responding to, but not returning from, an emergency call or fire alarm.

c. The driver has received emergency vehicle operations training.

2. The provisions of this section shall not relieve the driver from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all other persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of the driver's reckless disregard for the safety of others.

3. A court shall dismiss and expunge from a driver's record any excessive speed violation citations issued to a driver under circumstances in which the driver complied with subsection 1, if the driver presents to the court a signed statement from the applicable fire chief or chief officer of an emergency medical services agency providing details about the driver's operation of the vehicle while responding to an emergency call or fire alarm, which operation resulted in the citation. This subsection does not apply to a driver who holds a commercial driver's license or commercial learner's permit.

Sec. 2. Section 321.423, subsection 3, paragraph a, Code 2021, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (03) A vehicle authorized by the chief officer of an emergency medical services agency, if the vehicle

is owned by a member of the emergency medical services agency, the request for authorization is made by the member on forms provided by the department, and necessity for authorization to respond to an emergency call or fire alarm under section 321.231A is demonstrated in the request.

Sec. 3. Section 321.423, subsection 3, paragraph b, Code 2021, is amended to read as follows:

b. A person shall not use only a blue light on a vehicle unless the vehicle meets the requirements of paragraph "*a*", subparagraph (1), ~~or~~ (2), or (03).