

## CHAPTER 97

### AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY, SNOW REMOVAL, MAINTENANCE, AND TOWING OR RECOVERY VEHICLES — LIGHTING AND AUDIBLE WARNING DEVICES OR EQUIPMENT

H.F. 654

**AN ACT** relating to lighting devices and other equipment on snow plows and authorized emergency vehicles, providing penalties, making penalties applicable, and including effective date provisions.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

Section 1. [Section 321.393, subsections 4 and 5](#), Code 2021, 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 2021, 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, subparagraphs (3) and (4), Code 2021, are 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.~~

(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. 4. [Section 321.423, subsection 7](#), paragraph a, subparagraph (4), Code 2021, 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. 5. [Section 321.423, subsection 7](#), paragraph a, Code 2021, is amended by adding the following new subparagraphs:

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

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

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, emergency medical services, or emergency management 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](#), shall be equipped with a combination of operational red and blue lights.

4. An authorized emergency vehicle equipped with an interior or exterior light bar must have the light bar positioned such that front and rear facing red lights are on the driver's side of the vehicle and front and rear facing blue lights are 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, emergency medical services, or emergency management 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.

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

Sec. 7. [Section 321.433](#), Code 2021, 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, an incident dangerous to the public, an official training exercise, for maintenance or demonstration purposes, 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.

Sec. 8. [Section 805.8A, subsection 3](#), Code 2021, is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

NEW PARAGRAPH. *Oac.* [Section 321.424](#).. \$ 45.

Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

Approved May 10, 2021