

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by changing
5 Section 12-215 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/12-215) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 12-215)

7 Sec. 12-215. Oscillating, rotating or flashing lights on
8 motor vehicles. Except as otherwise provided in this Code:

9 (a) The use of red or white oscillating, rotating or
10 flashing lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited
11 except on:

12 1. Law enforcement vehicles of State, Federal or local
13 authorities;

14 2. A vehicle operated by a police officer or county
15 coroner and designated or authorized by local authorities,
16 in writing, as a law enforcement vehicle; however, such
17 designation or authorization must be carried in the
18 vehicle;

19 2.1. A vehicle operated by a fire chief who has
20 completed an emergency vehicle operation training course
21 approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and
22 designated or authorized by local authorities, in writing,
23 as a fire department, fire protection district, or township
24 fire department vehicle; however, the designation or
25 authorization must be carried in the vehicle, and the
26 lights may be visible or activated only when responding to
27 a bona fide emergency;

28 3. Vehicles of local fire departments and State or
29 federal firefighting vehicles;

30 4. Vehicles which are designed and used exclusively as
31 ambulances or rescue vehicles; furthermore, such lights
32 shall not be lighted except when responding to an emergency

1 call for and while actually conveying the sick or injured;

2 5. Tow trucks licensed in a state that requires such
3 lights; furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted on
4 any such tow truck while the tow truck is operating in the
5 State of Illinois;

6 6. Vehicles of the Illinois Emergency Management
7 Agency, vehicles of the Illinois Department of Public
8 Health, and vehicles of the Department of Nuclear Safety;

9 7. Vehicles operated by a local or county emergency
10 management services agency as defined in the Illinois
11 Emergency Management Agency Act; ~~and~~

12 8. School buses operating alternately flashing head
13 lamps as permitted under Section 12-805 of this Code; and-

14 9. ~~8.~~ Vehicles that are equipped and used exclusively
15 as organ transplant vehicles when used in combination with
16 blue oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights;
17 furthermore, these lights shall be lighted only when the
18 transportation is declared an emergency by a member of the
19 transplant team or a representative of the organ
20 procurement organization.

21 (b) The use of amber oscillating, rotating or flashing
22 lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited except on:

23 1. Second division vehicles designed and used for
24 towing or hoisting vehicles; furthermore, such lights
25 shall not be lighted except as required in this paragraph
26 1; such lights shall be lighted when such vehicles are
27 actually being used at the scene of an accident or
28 disablement; if the towing vehicle is equipped with a flat
29 bed that supports all wheels of the vehicle being
30 transported, the lights shall not be lighted while the
31 vehicle is engaged in towing on a highway; if the towing
32 vehicle is not equipped with a flat bed that supports all
33 wheels of a vehicle being transported, the lights shall be
34 lighted while the towing vehicle is engaged in towing on a
35 highway during all times when the use of headlights is
36 required under Section 12-201 of this Code;

1 2. Motor vehicles or equipment of the State of
2 Illinois, local authorities and contractors; furthermore,
3 such lights shall not be lighted except while such vehicles
4 are engaged in maintenance or construction operations
5 within the limits of construction projects;

6 3. Vehicles or equipment used by engineering or survey
7 crews; furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted except
8 while such vehicles are actually engaged in work on a
9 highway;

10 4. Vehicles of public utilities, municipalities, or
11 other construction, maintenance or automotive service
12 vehicles except that such lights shall be lighted only as a
13 means for indicating the presence of a vehicular traffic
14 hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, overtaking
15 or passing while such vehicles are engaged in maintenance,
16 service or construction on a highway;

17 5. Oversized vehicle or load; however, such lights
18 shall only be lighted when moving under permit issued by
19 the Department under Section 15-301 of this Code;

20 6. The front and rear of motorized equipment owned and
21 operated by the State of Illinois or any political
22 subdivision thereof, which is designed and used for removal
23 of snow and ice from highways;

24 7. Fleet safety vehicles registered in another state,
25 furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted except as
26 provided for in Section 12-212 of this Code;

27 8. Such other vehicles as may be authorized by local
28 authorities;

29 9. Law enforcement vehicles of State or local
30 authorities when used in combination with red oscillating,
31 rotating or flashing lights;

32 9.5. Propane delivery trucks;

33 10. Vehicles used for collecting or delivering mail for
34 the United States Postal Service provided that such lights
35 shall not be lighted except when such vehicles are actually
36 being used for such purposes;

1 11. Any vehicle displaying a slow-moving vehicle
2 emblem as provided in Section 12-205.1;

3 12. All trucks equipped with self-compactors or
4 roll-off hoists and roll-on containers for garbage or
5 refuse hauling. Such lights shall not be lighted except
6 when such vehicles are actually being used for such
7 purposes;

8 13. Vehicles used by a security company, alarm
9 responder, or control agency;

10 14. Security vehicles of the Department of Human
11 Services; however, the lights shall not be lighted except
12 when being used for security related purposes under the
13 direction of the superintendent of the facility where the
14 vehicle is located; and

15 15. Vehicles of union representatives, except that the
16 lights shall be lighted only while the vehicle is within
17 the limits of a construction project.

18 (c) The use of blue oscillating, rotating or flashing
19 lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited except on:

20 1. Rescue squad vehicles not owned by a fire department
21 and vehicles owned or fully operated by a:

22 voluntary firefighter;

23 paid firefighter;

24 part-paid firefighter;

25 call firefighter;

26 member of the board of trustees of a fire
27 protection district;

28 paid or unpaid member of a rescue squad;

29 paid or unpaid member of a voluntary ambulance
30 unit; or

31 paid or unpaid members of a local or county
32 emergency management services agency as defined in the
33 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, designated
34 or authorized by local authorities, in writing, and
35 carrying that designation or authorization in the
36 vehicle.

1 However, such lights are not to be lighted except when
2 responding to a bona fide emergency.

3 Any person using these lights in accordance with this
4 subdivision (c)1 must carry on his or her person an
5 identification card or letter identifying him or her as a
6 member of a bona fide fire department, fire protection
7 district, rescue squad, ambulance unit, or emergency
8 management services agency. The card or letter must
9 include:

10 (A) the name of the fire department, fire
11 protection district, rescue squad, ambulance unit, or
12 emergency management services agency;

13 (B) the member's position within the fire
14 department, fire protection district, rescue squad,
15 ambulance unit, or emergency management services
16 agency;

17 (C) the member's term of service; and

18 (D) the name of a person within the fire
19 department, fire protection district, rescue squad,
20 ambulance unit, or emergency management services
21 agency to contact to verify the information provided.

22 2. Police department vehicles in cities having a
23 population of 500,000 or more inhabitants.

24 3. Law enforcement vehicles of State or local
25 authorities when used in combination with red oscillating,
26 rotating or flashing lights.

27 4. Vehicles of local fire departments and State or
28 federal firefighting vehicles when used in combination
29 with red oscillating, rotating or flashing lights.

30 5. Vehicles which are designed and used exclusively as
31 ambulances or rescue vehicles when used in combination with
32 red oscillating, rotating or flashing lights; furthermore,
33 such lights shall not be lighted except when responding to
34 an emergency call.

35 6. Vehicles that are equipped and used exclusively as
36 organ transport vehicles when used in combination with red

1 oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights; furthermore,
2 these lights shall only be lighted when the transportation
3 is declared an emergency by a member of the transplant team
4 or a representative of the organ procurement organization.

5 7. Vehicles of the Illinois Emergency Management
6 Agency, vehicles of the Illinois Department of Public
7 Health, and vehicles of the Department of Nuclear Safety,
8 when used in combination with red oscillating, rotating, or
9 flashing lights.

10 8. Vehicles operated by a local or county emergency
11 management services agency as defined in the Illinois
12 Emergency Management Agency Act, when used in combination
13 with red oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights.

14 (c-1) In addition to the blue oscillating, rotating, or
15 flashing lights permitted under subsection (c), and
16 notwithstanding subsection (a), a vehicle operated by a
17 voluntary firefighter, a voluntary member of a rescue squad, or
18 a member of a voluntary ambulance unit may be equipped with
19 flashing white headlights and blue grill lights, which may be
20 used only in responding to an emergency call.

21 (c-2) In addition to the blue oscillating, rotating, or
22 flashing lights permitted under subsection (c), and
23 notwithstanding subsection (a), a vehicle operated by a paid or
24 unpaid member of a local or county emergency management
25 services agency as defined in the Illinois Emergency Management
26 Agency Act, may be equipped with white oscillating, rotating,
27 or flashing lights to be used in combination with blue
28 oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights, if authorization by
29 local authorities is in writing and carried in the vehicle.

30 (d) The use of a combination of amber and white
31 oscillating, rotating or flashing lights, whether lighted or
32 unlighted, is prohibited except motor vehicles or equipment of
33 the State of Illinois, local authorities, contractors, and
34 union representatives may be so equipped; furthermore, such
35 lights shall not be lighted on vehicles of the State of
36 Illinois, local authorities, and contractors except while such

1 vehicles are engaged in highway maintenance or construction
2 operations within the limits of highway construction projects,
3 and shall not be lighted on the vehicles of union
4 representatives except when those vehicles are within the
5 limits of a construction project.

6 (e) All oscillating, rotating or flashing lights referred
7 to in this Section shall be of sufficient intensity, when
8 illuminated, to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight.

9 (f) Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a manufacturer
10 of oscillating, rotating or flashing lights or his
11 representative from temporarily mounting such lights on a
12 vehicle for demonstration purposes only.

13 (g) Any person violating the provisions of subsections (a),
14 (b), (c) or (d) of this Section who without lawful authority
15 stops or detains or attempts to stop or detain another person
16 shall be guilty of a Class 4 felony.

17 (h) Except as provided in subsection (g) above, any person
18 violating the provisions of subsections (a) or (c) of this
19 Section shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

20 (Source: P.A. 92-138, eff. 7-24-01; 92-407, eff. 8-17-01;
21 92-651, eff. 7-11-02; 92-782, eff. 8-6-02; 92-820, eff.
22 8-21-02; 92-872, eff. 6-1-03; 93-181, eff. 1-1-04; 93-725, eff.
23 1-1-05; 93-794, eff. 7-22-04; 93-829, eff. 7-28-04; revised
24 10-22-04.)