

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 Sections 1-105 and 12-215 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/1-105) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 1-105)

7 Sec. 1-105. Authorized emergency vehicle. Emergency  
8 vehicles of municipal departments or public service  
9 corporations as are designated or authorized by proper local  
10 authorities; police vehicles; vehicles of the fire department;  
11 vehicles of a HazMat or technical rescue team authorized by a  
12 county board under Section 5-1127 of the Counties Code;  
13 ambulances; vehicles of the Illinois Emergency Management  
14 Agency; mine rescue and explosives emergency response vehicles  
15 of the Department of Natural Resources; and vehicles of the  
16 Illinois Department of Public Health.

17 (Source: P.A. 96-214, eff. 8-10-09.)

18 (625 ILCS 5/12-215) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 12-215)

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

21 (a) The use of red or white oscillating, rotating or  
22 flashing lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited

1 except on:

2 1. Law enforcement vehicles of State, Federal or local  
3 authorities;

4 2. A vehicle operated by a police officer or county  
5 coroner and designated or authorized by local authorities,  
6 in writing, as a law enforcement vehicle; however, such  
7 designation or authorization must be carried in the  
8 vehicle;

9 2.1. A vehicle operated by a fire chief who has  
10 completed an emergency vehicle operation training course  
11 approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and  
12 designated or authorized by local authorities, in writing,  
13 as a fire department, fire protection district, or township  
14 fire department vehicle; however, the designation or  
15 authorization must be carried in the vehicle, and the  
16 lights may be visible or activated only when responding to  
17 a bona fide emergency;

18 3. Vehicles of local fire departments and State or  
19 federal firefighting vehicles;

20 4. Vehicles which are designed and used exclusively as  
21 ambulances or rescue vehicles; furthermore, such lights  
22 shall not be lighted except when responding to an emergency  
23 call for and while actually conveying the sick or injured;

24 5. Tow trucks licensed in a state that requires such  
25 lights; furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted on  
26 any such tow truck while the tow truck is operating in the

1 State of Illinois;

2 6. Vehicles of the Illinois Emergency Management  
3 Agency, vehicles of the Illinois Department of Public  
4 Health, and vehicles of the Department of Nuclear Safety;

5 7. Vehicles operated by a local or county emergency  
6 management services agency as defined in the Illinois  
7 Emergency Management Agency Act;

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

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

17 10. Vehicles of the Illinois Department of Natural  
18 Resources that are used for mine rescue and explosives  
19 emergency response.

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

22 1. Second division vehicles designed and used for  
23 towing or hoisting vehicles; furthermore, such lights  
24 shall not be lighted except as required in this paragraph  
25 1; such lights shall be lighted when such vehicles are  
26 actually being used at the scene of an accident or

1           disablement; if the towing vehicle is equipped with a flat  
2           bed that supports all wheels of the vehicle being  
3           transported, the lights shall not be lighted while the  
4           vehicle is engaged in towing on a highway; if the towing  
5           vehicle is not equipped with a flat bed that supports all  
6           wheels of a vehicle being transported, the lights shall be  
7           lighted while the towing vehicle is engaged in towing on a  
8           highway during all times when the use of headlights is  
9           required under Section 12-201 of this Code;

10           2. Motor vehicles or equipment of the State of  
11           Illinois, local authorities and contractors; furthermore,  
12           such lights shall not be lighted except while such vehicles  
13           are engaged in maintenance or construction operations  
14           within the limits of construction projects;

15           3. Vehicles or equipment used by engineering or survey  
16           crews; furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted except  
17           while such vehicles are actually engaged in work on a  
18           highway;

19           4. Vehicles of public utilities, municipalities, or  
20           other construction, maintenance or automotive service  
21           vehicles except that such lights shall be lighted only as a  
22           means for indicating the presence of a vehicular traffic  
23           hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, overtaking  
24           or passing while such vehicles are engaged in maintenance,  
25           service or construction on a highway;

26           5. Oversized vehicle or load; however, such lights

1 shall only be lighted when moving under permit issued by  
2 the Department under Section 15-301 of this Code;

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

7 (6.1) The front and rear of motorized equipment or  
8 vehicles that (i) are not owned by the State of Illinois or  
9 any political subdivision of the State, (ii) are designed  
10 and used for removal of snow and ice from highways and  
11 parking lots, and (iii) are equipped with a snow plow that  
12 is 12 feet in width; these lights may not be lighted except  
13 when the motorized equipment or vehicle is actually being  
14 used for those purposes on behalf of a unit of government;

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

18 8. Such other vehicles as may be authorized by local  
19 authorities;

20 9. Law enforcement vehicles of State or local  
21 authorities when used in combination with red oscillating,  
22 rotating or flashing lights;

23 9.5. Propane delivery trucks;

24 10. Vehicles used for collecting or delivering mail for  
25 the United States Postal Service provided that such lights  
26 shall not be lighted except when such vehicles are actually

1 being used for such purposes;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 voluntary firefighter;

24 paid firefighter;

25 part-paid firefighter;

26 call firefighter;

1 member of the board of trustees of a fire  
2 protection district;

3 paid or unpaid member of a rescue squad;

4 paid or unpaid member of a voluntary ambulance  
5 unit; or

6 paid or unpaid members of a local or county  
7 emergency management services agency as defined in the  
8 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, designated  
9 or authorized by local authorities, in writing, and  
10 carrying that designation or authorization in the  
11 vehicle.

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

14 Any person using these lights in accordance with this  
15 subdivision (c)1 must carry on his or her person an  
16 identification card or letter identifying the bona fide  
17 member of a fire department, fire protection district,  
18 rescue squad, ambulance unit, or emergency management  
19 services agency that owns or operates that vehicle. The  
20 card or letter must include:

21 (A) the name of the fire department, fire  
22 protection district, rescue squad, ambulance unit, or  
23 emergency management services agency;

24 (B) the member's position within the fire  
25 department, fire protection district, rescue squad,  
26 ambulance unit, or emergency management services

1 agency;

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

3 (D) the name of a person within the fire  
4 department, fire protection district, rescue squad,  
5 ambulance unit, or emergency management services  
6 agency to contact to verify the information provided.

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

9 3. Law enforcement vehicles of State or local  
10 authorities when used in combination with red oscillating,  
11 rotating or flashing lights.

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

15 5. Vehicles which are designed and used exclusively as  
16 ambulances or rescue vehicles when used in combination with  
17 red oscillating, rotating or flashing lights; furthermore,  
18 such lights shall not be lighted except when responding to  
19 an emergency call.

20 6. Vehicles that are equipped and used exclusively as  
21 organ transport vehicles when used in combination with red  
22 oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights; furthermore,  
23 these lights shall only be lighted when the transportation  
24 is declared an emergency by a member of the transplant team  
25 or a representative of the organ procurement organization.

26 7. Vehicles of the Illinois Emergency Management



1 Agency, vehicles of the Illinois Department of Public  
2 Health, and vehicles of the Department of Nuclear Safety,  
3 when used in combination with red oscillating, rotating, or  
4 flashing lights.

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

9 9. Vehicles of the Illinois Department of Natural  
10 Resources that are used for mine rescue and explosives  
11 emergency response, when used in combination with red  
12 oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights.

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

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

1 oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights, if authorization by  
2 local authorities is in writing and carried in the vehicle.

3 (d) The use of a combination of amber and white  
4 oscillating, rotating or flashing lights, whether lighted or  
5 unlighted, is prohibited except motor vehicles or equipment of  
6 the State of Illinois, local authorities, contractors, and  
7 union representatives may be so equipped; furthermore, such  
8 lights shall not be lighted on vehicles of the State of  
9 Illinois, local authorities, and contractors except while such  
10 vehicles are engaged in highway maintenance or construction  
11 operations within the limits of highway construction projects,  
12 and shall not be lighted on the vehicles of union  
13 representatives except when those vehicles are within the  
14 limits of a construction project.

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

18 (f) Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a manufacturer  
19 of oscillating, rotating or flashing lights or his  
20 representative from temporarily mounting such lights on a  
21 vehicle for demonstration purposes only.

22 (g) Any person violating the provisions of subsections (a),  
23 (b), (c) or (d) of this Section who without lawful authority  
24 stops or detains or attempts to stop or detain another person  
25 shall be guilty of a Class 2 felony.

26 (h) Except as provided in subsection (g) above, any person

1 violating the provisions of subsections (a) or (c) of this  
2 Section shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

3 (Source: P.A. 96-214, eff. 8-10-09.)

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
5 becoming law.