
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1414 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY BARRAR, BOBACK, V. BROWN, GABLER, GILLEN,
KAVULICH, MURT, ZIMMERMAN, KORTZ, BARBIN AND MICCARELLI,
MAY 19, 2017

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, IN SENATE, OCTOBER 1, 2018

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for
3 definitions; and, in other required equipment, further
4 providing for visual and audible signals on emergency
5 vehicles and for visual signals on authorized vehicles and
6 providing for flashing or revolving yellow and white lights
7 and for solid waste collection vehicles.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 ~~Section 1. The definition of "emergency vehicle" in section <--~~
11 ~~102 of Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is~~
12 ~~amended and the section is amended by adding a definition to~~
13 ~~read:~~

14 SECTION 1. THE DEFINITIONS OF "EMERGENCY SERVICE RESPONDER" <--
15 AND "EMERGENCY VEHICLE" IN SECTION 102 OF TITLE 75 OF THE
16 PENNSYLVANIA CONSOLIDATED STATUTES ARE AMENDED AND THE SECTION
17 IS AMENDED BY ADDING A DEFINITION TO READ:

18 § 102. Definitions.

19 Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent

1 provisions of this title which are applicable to specific
2 provisions of this title, the following words and phrases when
3 used in this title shall have, unless the context clearly
4 indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

5 * * *

6 "EMERGENCY SERVICE RESPONDER." AN INDIVIDUAL ACTING IN AN <--
7 OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 8 (1) A POLICE OFFICER.
- 9 (2) A SHERIFF OR DEPUTY SHERIFF.
- 10 (3) A CORONER OR DEPUTY CORONER.
- 11 (4) A FIREFIGHTER.
- 12 (5) FIRE POLICE.
- 13 (6) A FIRE MARSHAL.
- 14 (7) A MEDICAL EXAMINER OR DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER.
- 15 (8) RESCUE PERSONNEL.
- 16 (9) AMBULANCE PERSONNEL.
- 17 (10) TOWING AND RECOVERY PERSONNEL.
- 18 (11) HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION PERSONNEL.
- 19 (12) HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RESPONSE TEAM MEMBER.
- 20 (13) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL.
- 21 (14) CONTRACTORS OR EMPLOYEES OF A PUBLIC UTILITY AS
22 DEFINED UNDER 66 PA.C.S. § 102 (RELATING TO DEFINITIONS), A
23 MUNICIPALLY OWNED UTILITY OR AN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE AS
24 DEFINED IN 15 PA.C.S. CH. 73 (RELATING TO ELECTRIC
25 COOPERATIVE CORPORATIONS).

26 (15) A POLICE OFFICER WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF A COUNTY
27 OR REGIONAL MUNICIPAL SPECIAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM WHICH
28 IS AUTHORIZED TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES UNDER 42 PA.C.S. §
29 8953 (RELATING TO STATEWIDE MUNICIPAL POLICE JURISDICTION).

30 "Emergency vehicle." A State or county emergency management

1 vehicle, fire department vehicle, police vehicle, sheriff
2 vehicle, ambulance, advanced life support squad vehicle, basic
3 life support squad vehicle, emergency canteen support service
4 organization vehicle, blood delivery vehicle, human organ
5 delivery vehicle, hazardous material response vehicle, armed
6 forces emergency vehicle, one vehicle operated by a coroner or
7 chief county medical examiner and one vehicle operated by a
8 chief deputy coroner or deputy chief county medical examiner
9 used for answering emergency calls, a vehicle owned by or leased
10 to a regional emergency medical services council that is used as
11 authorized by the Department of Health to respond to an actual
12 or potential disaster, mass casualty situation or substantial
13 threat to public health, a vehicle owned by a county or regional
14 police association and operated by a police officer that is used
15 for police transport or victim extraction, a vehicle that is
16 owned and operated by a county correctional institution in a
17 city of the first class and used to respond to an emergency at a
18 correctional institution in a city of the first class or to
19 escort an ambulance which is transporting sick or injured
20 prisoners in a city of the first class, any vehicle operated by
21 a special agent, special agent supervisor, narcotics agent or
22 narcotics agent supervisor while performing official duties as
23 employees of the Office of Attorney General, any vehicle owned
24 and operated by the Philadelphia Parking Authority established
25 in accordance with 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 55 (relating to parking
26 authorities) and used in the enforcement of 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 57
27 (relating to taxicabs and limousines in first class cities), a
28 vehicle owned by a city of the first class and operated by first
29 judicial district certified armed probation officers, a vehicle
30 owned and operated by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission that

1 is used by an emergency service responder as dispatched by the
2 Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's traffic operations center, or
3 any other vehicle designated by the State Police under section
4 6106 (relating to designation of emergency vehicles by
5 Pennsylvania State Police), or a privately owned vehicle used in
6 answering an emergency call when used by any of the following:

7 (1) A police chief and assistant chief.

8 (2) A fire chief, assistant chief and, when a fire
9 company has three or more fire vehicles, a second or third
10 assistant chief.

11 (3) A fire police captain and fire police lieutenant.

12 (4) An ambulance corps commander and assistant
13 commander.

14 (5) A river rescue commander and assistant commander.

15 (6) A county emergency management coordinator.

16 (7) A fire marshal.

17 (8) A rescue service chief and assistant chief.

18 (9) The chief or operations director of a county
19 hazardous materials response team.

20 (10) A POLICE OFFICER WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF A COUNTY <--
21 OR REGIONAL MUNICIPAL SPECIAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM WHICH
22 IS AUTHORIZED TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES UNDER 42 PA.C.S. §
23 8953.

24 * * *

25 "Solid waste collection vehicle." A vehicle used for the
26 curbside collection of municipal solid waste or recyclables.

27 * * *

28 ~~Section 2. Section 4571(b.1)(3) of Title 75 is amended to~~ <--
29 ~~read:~~

30 SECTION 2. SECTION 4571(B.1)(3) AND (F) OF TITLE 75 ARE <--

1 AMENDED, SUBSECTION (B.1) IS AMENDED BY ADDING PARAGRAPHS AND
2 THE SECTION IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SUBSECTION TO READ:

3 § 4571. Visual and audible signals on emergency vehicles.

4 * * *

5 (b.1) Mounted lights and additional equipment.--

6 * * *

7 (3) The department may not prohibit the use of flashing
8 or revolving lights mounted internally in the passenger
9 compartment of fire department vehicles or privately owned
10 vehicles used in answering an emergency call when used by a
11 fire police captain, fire police lieutenant, fire chief,
12 assistant chief and, when a fire company has three or more
13 fire vehicles, a second or third assistant chief that comply
14 with the department's regulations.

15 (3.1) POLICE AND SHERIFF VEHICLES MAY BE EQUIPPED WITH <--
16 FLASHING RED AND BLUE LIGHTS IN REVERSE LAMP ASSEMBLIES.

17 (3.2) EMERGENCY VEHICLES, OTHER THAN POLICE VEHICLES,
18 MAY BE EQUIPPED WITH FLASHING RED LIGHTS IN REVERSE LAMP
19 ASSEMBLIES.

20 * * *

21 (B.2) POLICE OFFICER SPECIAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM <--
22 MEMBERS.--A PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLE USED IN RESPONDING TO AN
23 EMERGENCY UNDER 42 PA.C.S. § 8953 (RELATING TO STATEWIDE
24 MUNICIPAL POLICE JURISDICTION) BY A POLICE OFFICER WHO IS ALSO A
25 MEMBER OF A COUNTY OR REGIONAL SPECIAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM
26 SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH REVOLVING OR FLASHING RED LIGHTS AND AN
27 AUDIBLE WARNING SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) SUBJECT
28 TO THE LIGHTS AND AUDIBLE WARNING SYSTEM BEING RETURNED TO THE
29 HEAD OF THE SPECIAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM UPON TERMINATION OF
30 A PERSON'S ACTIVE STATUS AS A POLICE OFFICER OR ACTIVE MEMBER OF

1 A SPECIAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM.

2 * * *

3 (F) CONFORMITY WITH DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS.--EXCEPT AS
4 PROVIDED UNDER [SUBSECTION] SUBSECTIONS (B.1)(1.1) AND (B.2),
5 ALL EQUIPMENT AUTHORIZED OR REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION SHALL
6 CONFORM TO DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS.

7 Section 3. Section 4572(a) introductory paragraph of Title
8 75 is amended and the subsection is amended by adding a
9 paragraph to read:

10 § 4572. Visual signals on authorized vehicles.

11 (a) Flashing or revolving blue lights.--Ambulance personnel,
12 volunteer firefighters, certified volunteer search and rescue
13 organization members and owners and handlers of dogs used in
14 tracking humans may each equip one motor vehicle with no more
15 than two flashing or revolving blue lights. The following shall
16 apply:

17 * * *

18 (7) The department may not prohibit the use of flashing
19 or revolving blue lights mounted internally in the passenger
20 compartment of a privately-owned vehicle used in answering an
21 emergency call that otherwise comply with the department's
22 regulations.

23 * * *

24 Section 4. Title 75 is amended by adding sections to read:

25 § 4572.1. Flashing or revolving yellow and white lights.

26 (a) General rule.--Tow trucks may be equipped with one or
27 more flashing or revolving yellow lights and one or more
28 flashing or revolving white lights. The manner in which the
29 light or lights shall be displayed and the intensity shall be <--
30 determined by regulation of the department.

1 (b) Limitations.--The flashing or revolving yellow and white
2 lights on tow trucks shall be activated only when the vehicle is
3 actively performing the type of work which is the basis of the
4 designation of the vehicle as an authorized vehicle or is within
5 the vicinity of an emergency response area. Tow trucks shall not
6 operate with activated flashing or revolving yellow and white
7 lights when:

8 (1) Not engaged in the act of towing a vehicle.

9 (2) Brake lights, turn signals and operating lights are
10 visible from the rear and not obstructed.

11 (3) The vehicle being towed does not trail behind the
12 tow truck and is securely positioned on the flatbed of the
13 tow truck with no parts of the towed vehicle overhanging.

14 (c) Penalty.--Unauthorized use of the lights specified in
15 this subsection shall be a summary offense punishable by a fine
16 of \$50.

17 § 4572.2. Solid waste collection vehicles.

18 (a) General rule.--Upon approaching and passing a stationary
19 solid waste collection vehicle that is giving a visual signal by
20 means of bright yellow strobe light as required under subsection
21 (b), the driver of an approaching vehicle shall proceed as
22 follows:

23 (1) make a lane change into a lane not adjacent to the
24 solid waste collection vehicle, if possible in the existing
25 safety and traffic conditions; or

26 (2) if a lane change under paragraph (1) would be
27 impossible, prohibited by law or unsafe, reduce the speed of
28 the motor vehicle to a reasonable and proper speed for the
29 existing road and traffic conditions, which shall be less
30 than the posted speed limit, and be prepared to stop.

1 (b) Requirements for solid waste collection vehicles.--Solid
2 waste collection vehicles shall be equipped with a bright yellow
3 strobe light affixed to the roof, which shall be mounted to
4 provide visibility to vehicles approaching from any direction,
5 in accordance with department regulations. The strobe light
6 shall be active while stopped upon a street and while engaged in
7 the collection of garbage, solid wastes, recyclables and refuse
8 or while moving between stops at a speed not greater than 10
9 miles per hour.

10 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.