



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB4814

Introduced 2/18/2020, by Rep. Kathleen Willis

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

625 ILCS 5/3-611.5

625 ILCS 5/12-601

from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 12-601

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that vehicles of deputy fire chiefs and assistant fire chiefs may be equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 500 feet. Provides that deputy fire chiefs and assistant fire chiefs are eligible for fire chief license plates. Provides that any fire chief, deputy fire chief, or assistant fire chief operating warning devices upon a vehicle not owned by a municipality or fire protection district shall display fire chief license plates. Provides that, with the exception of permanently issued license plates, upon the resignation, termination, or reassignment to a rank other than fire chief, deputy fire chief, or assistant fire chief, a person issued fire chief license plates shall immediately surrender the license plate to the Secretary of State. Provides that the Secretary of State shall have the ability to recover the license plates.

LRB101 18548 HEP 68002 b

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 3-611.5 and 12-601 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/3-611.5)

7 Sec. 3-611.5. Fire Chief license plates.

8 (a) The Secretary, upon receipt of a request from a
9 municipality or fire protection district that operates a fire
10 department, accompanied by an application and the appropriate
11 fee, may issue, to a fire chief, deputy fire chief, and
12 assistant fire chief of each municipal fire department or fire
13 protection district, special registration plates designated as
14 Fire Chief license plates. The special plates issued under this
15 Section shall be affixed only to passenger vehicles of the
16 first division or motor vehicles of the second division
17 weighing not more than 8,000 pounds, owned by the fire
18 department or the fire chief, deputy fire chief, or assistant
19 fire chief ~~chief officer~~ of the fire department. Plates issued
20 under this Section shall expire according to the multi-year
21 procedure established by Section 3-414.1 of this Code.

22 (b) The design and color of the special plates shall be
23 wholly within the discretion of the Secretary. The plates are

1 not required to designate "Land of Lincoln" as prescribed in
2 subsection (b) of Section 3-412 of this Code. The Secretary may
3 prescribe rules governing the requirements and approval of the
4 special plates. The fee for this plate for a vehicle owned by
5 the fire chief, deputy fire chief, or assistant fire chief
6 shall be the same as the fee prescribed for first division
7 vehicles in Section 3-806 of this Code. Permanent license
8 plates for fire chief, deputy fire chief, or assistant fire
9 chief vehicles owned by a municipal fire department or fire
10 protection district shall be issued at the fee prescribed in
11 Section 3-808.1(b).

12 (c) Any fire chief, deputy fire chief, or assistant fire
13 chief operating warning devices as described in paragraph 2.1
14 of subsection (a) of Section 12-215 or subsection (b) of
15 Section 12-601 upon a vehicle not owned by a municipality or
16 fire protection district shall display license plates as
17 described in this Section.

18 (d) With the exception of permanently issued license
19 plates, upon the resignation, termination, or reassignment to a
20 rank other than fire chief, deputy fire chief, or assistant
21 fire chief, a person issued plates under this Section shall
22 immediately surrender the license plate to the Secretary of
23 State. The Secretary of State shall have the ability to recover
24 license plates issued under this Section.

25 (Source: P.A. 95-556, eff. 6-1-08; 96-808, eff. 10-30-09.)

1 (625 ILCS 5/12-601) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 12-601)

2 Sec. 12-601. Horns and warning devices.

3 (a) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a highway shall
4 be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of
5 emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance
6 of not less than 200 feet, but no horn or other warning device
7 shall emit an unreasonable loud or harsh sound or a whistle.
8 The driver of a motor vehicle shall when reasonably necessary
9 to insure safe operation give audible warning with his horn but
10 shall not otherwise use such horn when upon a highway.

11 (b) No vehicle shall be equipped with nor shall any person
12 use upon a vehicle any siren, whistle, or bell, except as
13 otherwise permitted in this Section. Any authorized emergency
14 vehicle or organ transport vehicle as defined in Chapter 1 of
15 this Code or a vehicle operated by a fire chief, deputy fire
16 chief, assistant fire chief, or the Director or Coordinator of
17 a municipal or county emergency services and disaster agency
18 may be equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell capable of
19 emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance
20 of not less than 500 feet, but such siren, whistle, or bell
21 shall not be used except when such vehicle is operated in
22 response to an emergency call or in the immediate pursuit of an
23 actual or suspected violator of the law in either of which
24 events the driver of such vehicle shall sound such siren,
25 whistle, or bell when necessary to warn pedestrians and other
26 drivers of the approach thereof.

1 (c) Trackless trolley coaches, as defined by Section 1-206
2 of this Code, and replica trolleys, as defined by Section
3 1-171.04 of this Code, may be equipped with a bell or bells in
4 lieu of a horn, and may, in addition to the requirements of
5 subsection (a) of this Section, use a bell or bells for the
6 purpose of indicating arrival or departure at designated stops
7 during the hours of scheduled operation.

8 (Source: P.A. 100-182, eff. 1-1-18; 100-863, eff. 8-14-18.)