



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB1251

Introduced 2/3/2023, by Sen. Adriane Johnson

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

625 ILCS 5/11-1421

from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 11-1421

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that the operator of the ambulance or rescue vehicle shall have documented, specified, training in the operation of an ambulance or rescue vehicle prior to operating that vehicle. In municipality with a population of 1,000,000 or under, requires the siren and lamp or lamps on an ambulance or a rescue vehicle to be in operation at all times when pedestrians and other drivers are present (instead of when it is reasonably necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of the approach thereof) during a trip or journey when the ambulance or rescue vehicle is either responding to a bona fide emergency call or specifically directed by a licensed physician to disregard traffic laws in operating the ambulance during and for the purpose of the specific trip or journey that is involved. Provides an ambulance or rescue vehicle shall be operated in complete conformance with other motor vehicle laws and regulations when the speed of the ambulance or rescue vehicle exceeds 25 miles per hour (instead of 40 miles per hour).

LRB103 28855 MXP 55240 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
5 changing Section 11-1421 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/11-1421) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 11-1421)

7 Sec. 11-1421. Conditions for operating ambulances and
8 rescue vehicles.

9 (a) No person shall operate an ambulance or rescue vehicle
10 in a manner not conforming to the motor vehicle laws and
11 regulations of this State or of any political subdivision of
12 this State as such laws and regulations apply to motor
13 vehicles in general, unless in compliance with the following
14 conditions:

15 0.5. The operator of the ambulance or rescue vehicle
16 shall have documented training in the operation of an
17 ambulance or rescue vehicle prior to operating that
18 vehicle. This training shall include the proper use of
19 warning lights and sirens, situations where warning lights
20 and sirens are warranted, and the provisions of this
21 Section.

22 1. The person operating the ambulance shall be either
23 responding to a bona fide emergency call or specifically

1 directed by a licensed physician to disregard traffic laws
2 in operating the ambulance during and for the purpose of
3 the specific trip or journey that is involved;

4 2. The ambulance or rescue vehicle shall be equipped
5 with a siren producing an audible signal of an intensity
6 of 100 decibels at a distance of 50 feet from the siren,
7 and with a lamp or lamps emitting an oscillating, rotating
8 or flashing red beam directed in part toward the front of
9 the vehicle, and these lamps shall have sufficient
10 intensity to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight,
11 and in addition to other lighting requirements, excluding
12 those vehicles operated in counties with a population in
13 excess of 2,000,000, may also operate with a lamp or lamps
14 emitting an oscillating, rotating, or flashing green
15 light;

16 3. The aforesaid siren and lamp or lamps shall be in
17 operation at all times when ~~it is reasonably necessary to~~
18 ~~warn~~ pedestrians and other drivers are present ~~of the~~
19 ~~approach thereof~~ during such trip or journey, except that
20 in a municipality with a population over 1,000,000, the
21 siren and lamp or lamps shall be in operation only when it
22 is reasonably necessary to warn pedestrians and other
23 drivers of the approach thereof while responding to an
24 emergency call or transporting a patient who presents a
25 combination of circumstances resulting in a need for
26 immediate medical intervention;

1 4. Whenever the ambulance or rescue vehicle is
2 operated at a speed in excess of 25 ~~40~~ miles per hour, the
3 ambulance or rescue vehicle shall be operated in complete
4 conformance with every other motor vehicle law and
5 regulation of this State and of the political subdivision
6 in which the ambulance or rescue vehicle is operated,
7 relating to the operation of motor vehicles, as such
8 provision applies to motor vehicles in general, except
9 laws and regulations pertaining to compliance with
10 official traffic-control devices or to vehicular operation
11 upon the right half of the roadway; and

12 5. The ambulance shall display registration plates
13 identifying the vehicle as an ambulance.

14 (b) The foregoing provisions do not relieve the driver of
15 an ambulance or rescue vehicle from the duty of driving with
16 due regard for the safety of all persons, nor do such
17 provisions protect the driver from the consequences resulting
18 from the reckless disregard for the safety of others.

19 (Source: P.A. 100-962, eff. 1-1-19.)