

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 emergency response vehicles of the  
15 Department of Natural Resources; and vehicles of the Illinois  
16 Department of Public Health.

17 (Source: P.A. 93-829, eff. 7-28-04; 94-334, eff. 1-1-06.)

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; ~~and~~

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 emergency response.

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

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

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

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

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

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

25           5. Oversized vehicle or load; however, such lights  
26 shall only be lighted when moving under permit issued by

1 the Department under Section 15-301 of this Code;

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

6 (6.1) The front and rear of motorized equipment or  
7 vehicles that (i) are not owned by the State of Illinois or  
8 any political subdivision of the State, (ii) are designed  
9 and used for removal of snow and ice from highways and  
10 parking lots, and (iii) are equipped with a snow plow that  
11 is 12 feet in width; these lights may not be lighted except  
12 when the motorized equipment or vehicle is actually being  
13 used for those purposes on behalf of a unit of government;

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

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

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

22 9.5. Propane delivery trucks;

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

1 protection district;

2 paid or unpaid member of a rescue squad;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 7. Vehicles of the Illinois Emergency Management  
26 Agency, vehicles of the Illinois Department of Public



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

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

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

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

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

1 local authorities is in writing and carried in the vehicle.

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

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

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

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

25 (h) Except as provided in subsection (g) above, any person  
26 violating the provisions of subsections (a) or (c) of this

1 Section shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

2 (Source: P.A. 93-181, eff. 1-1-04; 93-725, eff. 1-1-05; 93-794,  
3 eff. 7-22-04; 93-829, eff. 7-28-04; 94-143, eff. 1-1-06;  
4 94-270, eff. 1-1-06; 94-331, eff. 1-1-06; 94-730, eff.  
5 4-17-06.)

6 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
7 becoming law.