

1 AN ACT concerning economic development.

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 12-215 and 12-609 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/12-215) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 12-215)

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

9 (a) The use of red or white oscillating, rotating or  
10 flashing lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited  
11 except on:

12 1. Law enforcement vehicles of State, Federal or local  
13 authorities;

14 2. A vehicle operated by a police officer or county  
15 coroner and designated or authorized by local authorities,  
16 in writing, as a law enforcement vehicle; however, such  
17 designation or authorization must be carried in the  
18 vehicle;

19 2.1. A vehicle operated by a fire chief who has  
20 completed an emergency vehicle operation training course  
21 approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and  
22 designated or authorized by local authorities, in writing,  
23 as a fire department, fire protection district, or township

1 fire department vehicle; however, the designation or  
2 authorization must be carried in the vehicle, and the  
3 lights may be visible or activated only when responding to  
4 a bona fide emergency;

5 3. Vehicles of local fire departments and State or  
6 federal firefighting vehicles;

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

11 5. Tow trucks licensed in a state that requires such  
12 lights; furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted on  
13 any such tow truck while the tow truck is operating in the  
14 State of Illinois;

15 6. Vehicles of the Illinois Emergency Management  
16 Agency, vehicles of the Office of the Illinois State Fire  
17 Marshal, vehicles of the Illinois Department of Public  
18 Health, and vehicles of the Department of Nuclear Safety;

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

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

24 9. Vehicles that are equipped and used exclusively as  
25 organ transplant vehicles when used in combination with  
26 blue oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights;

1           furthermore, these lights shall be lighted only when the  
2           transportation is declared an emergency by a member of the  
3           transplant team or a representative of the organ  
4           procurement organization; and

5           10. Vehicles of the Illinois Department of Natural  
6           Resources that are used for mine rescue and explosives  
7           emergency response.

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

10           1. Second division vehicles designed and used for  
11           towing or hoisting vehicles; furthermore, such lights  
12           shall not be lighted except as required in this paragraph  
13           1; such lights shall be lighted when such vehicles are  
14           actually being used at the scene of an accident or  
15           disablement; if the towing vehicle is equipped with a flat  
16           bed that supports all wheels of the vehicle being  
17           transported, the lights shall not be lighted while the  
18           vehicle is engaged in towing on a highway; if the towing  
19           vehicle is not equipped with a flat bed that supports all  
20           wheels of a vehicle being transported, the lights shall be  
21           lighted while the towing vehicle is engaged in towing on a  
22           highway during all times when the use of headlights is  
23           required under Section 12-201 of this Code;

24           2. Motor vehicles or equipment of the State of  
25           Illinois, local authorities and contractors; furthermore,  
26           such lights shall not be lighted except while such vehicles

1 are engaged in maintenance or construction operations  
2 within the limits of construction projects;

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

7 4. Vehicles of public utilities, municipalities, or  
8 other construction, maintenance or automotive service  
9 vehicles except that such lights shall be lighted only as a  
10 means for indicating the presence of a vehicular traffic  
11 hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, overtaking  
12 or passing while such vehicles are engaged in maintenance,  
13 service or construction on a highway;

14 5. Oversized vehicle or load; however, such lights  
15 shall only be lighted when moving under permit issued by  
16 the Department under Section 15-301 of this Code;

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

21 (6.1) The front and rear of motorized equipment or  
22 vehicles that (i) are not owned by the State of Illinois or  
23 any political subdivision of the State, (ii) are designed  
24 and used for removal of snow and ice from highways and  
25 parking lots, and (iii) are equipped with a snow plow that  
26 is 12 feet in width; these lights may not be lighted except

1 when the motorized equipment or vehicle is actually being  
2 used for those purposes on behalf of a unit of government;

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

6 8. Such other vehicles as may be authorized by local  
7 authorities;

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

11 9.5. Propane delivery trucks;

12 10. Vehicles used for collecting or delivering mail for  
13 the United States Postal Service provided that such lights  
14 shall not be lighted except when such vehicles are actually  
15 being used for such purposes;

16 10.5. Vehicles of the Office of the Illinois State Fire  
17 Marshal, provided that such lights shall not be lighted  
18 except for when such vehicles are engaged in work for the  
19 Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal;

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

22 12. All trucks equipped with self-compactors or  
23 roll-off hoists and roll-on containers for garbage or  
24 refuse hauling. Such lights shall not be lighted except  
25 when such vehicles are actually being used for such  
26 purposes;

1           13. Vehicles used by a security company, alarm  
2 responder, or control agency;

3           14. Security vehicles of the Department of Human  
4 Services; however, the lights shall not be lighted except  
5 when being used for security related purposes under the  
6 direction of the superintendent of the facility where the  
7 vehicle is located; and

8           15. Vehicles of union representatives, except that the  
9 lights shall be lighted only while the vehicle is within  
10 the limits of a construction project.

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

13           1. Rescue squad vehicles not owned by a fire department  
14 and vehicles owned or operated by a:

15                 voluntary firefighter;

16                 paid firefighter;

17                 part-paid firefighter;

18                 call firefighter;

19                 member of the board of trustees of a fire  
20 protection district;

21                 paid or unpaid member of a rescue squad;

22                 paid or unpaid member of a voluntary ambulance  
23 unit; or

24                 paid or unpaid members of a local or county  
25 emergency management services agency as defined in the  
26 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, designated

1           or authorized by local authorities, in writing, and  
2           carrying that designation or authorization in the  
3           vehicle.

4           However, such lights are not to be lighted except when  
5           responding to a bona fide emergency or when parked or  
6           stationary at the scene of a fire, rescue call, ambulance  
7           call, or motor vehicle accident.

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

15                (A) the name of the fire department, fire  
16                protection district, rescue squad, ambulance unit, or  
17                emergency management services agency;

18                (B) the member's position within the fire  
19                department, fire protection district, rescue squad,  
20                ambulance unit, or emergency management services  
21                agency;

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

23                (D) the name of a person within the fire  
24                department, fire protection district, rescue squad,  
25                ambulance unit, or emergency management services  
26                agency to contact to verify the information provided.

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

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

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

9           5. Vehicles which are designed and used exclusively as  
10 ambulances or rescue vehicles when used in combination with  
11 red oscillating, rotating or flashing lights; furthermore,  
12 such lights shall not be lighted except when responding to  
13 an emergency call.

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

20           7. Vehicles of the Illinois Emergency Management  
21 Agency, vehicles of the Office of the Illinois State Fire  
22 Marshal, vehicles of the Illinois Department of Public  
23 Health, and vehicles of the Department of Nuclear Safety,  
24 when used in combination with red oscillating, rotating, or  
25 flashing lights.

26           8. Vehicles operated by a local or county emergency



1 management services agency as defined in the Illinois  
2 Emergency Management Agency Act, when used in combination  
3 with red oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights.

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

8 (c-1) In addition to the blue oscillating, rotating, or  
9 flashing lights permitted under subsection (c), and  
10 notwithstanding subsection (a), a vehicle operated by a  
11 voluntary firefighter, a voluntary member of a rescue squad, or  
12 a member of a voluntary ambulance unit may be equipped with  
13 flashing white headlights and blue grill lights, which may be  
14 used only in responding to an emergency call or when parked or  
15 stationary at the scene of a fire, rescue call, ambulance call,  
16 or motor vehicle accident.

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

26 (d) The use of a combination of amber and white

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

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

15 (f) Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a manufacturer  
16 of oscillating, rotating or flashing lights or his  
17 representative or authorized vendor from temporarily mounting  
18 such lights on a vehicle for demonstration purposes only. If  
19 the lights are not covered while the vehicle is operated upon a  
20 highway, the vehicle shall display signage indicating that the  
21 vehicle is out of service or not an emergency vehicle. The  
22 signage shall be displayed on all sides of the vehicle in  
23 letters at least 2 inches tall and one-half inch wide. A  
24 vehicle authorized to have oscillating, rotating, or flashing  
25 lights mounted for demonstration purposes may not activate the  
26 lights while the vehicle is operated upon a highway.

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

5 (h) Except as provided in subsection (g) above, any person  
6 violating the provisions of subsections (a) or (c) of this  
7 Section shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

8 (Source: P.A. 96-214, eff. 8-10-09; 96-1190, eff. 7-22-10;  
9 97-39, eff. 1-1-12; 97-149, eff. 7-14-11; revised 9-15-11.)

10 (625 ILCS 5/12-609) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 12-609)

11 Sec. 12-609. (a) No official or employee of the State, any  
12 political subdivision thereof, any county, municipality, or  
13 local authority, and no owner or employee of any new vehicle  
14 dealer, used vehicle dealer, or vehicle auctioneer shall sell,  
15 trade or otherwise dispose of any motor vehicle bearing  
16 equipment, markings, or other indicia of police authority  
17 unless, prior to delivery of the vehicle, the equipment and  
18 markings have been sufficiently altered or obliterated to  
19 remove the appearance of such authority.

20 (b) A person may not operate on the highways of this State  
21 a vehicle bearing the equipment, markings, or other indicia of  
22 police authority, unless the vehicle is an authorized emergency  
23 vehicle as defined in Section 1-105 of this Code.

24 (c) This Section does not apply to vehicles bearing indicia  
25 of police authority that are antique vehicles, as defined in

1 Section 1-102.1, and are registered as antique vehicles, as  
2 provided in Section 3-804.

3 (c-5) Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a manufacturer  
4 of authorized emergency vehicle equipment, markings, or other  
5 indicia, or the manufacturer's representative or authorized  
6 vendor, from temporarily mounting the equipment, markings, or  
7 other indicia on a vehicle for demonstration purposes only. If  
8 the equipment, markings, or other indicia are not covered while  
9 the vehicle is operated upon a highway, the vehicle shall  
10 display signage indicating that the vehicle is out of service  
11 or not an emergency vehicle. The signage shall be displayed on  
12 all sides of the vehicle in letters at least 2 inches tall and  
13 one-half inch wide.

14 (d) Any police officer is authorized to seize any vehicle  
15 that is in violation of this Section and to impound that  
16 vehicle, at the owner's expense, until any equipment, markings,  
17 or other indicia of police authority have been sufficiently  
18 removed, altered, or obliterated to remove the appearance of  
19 police authority.

20 (e) A person convicted of violating this Section is guilty  
21 of a petty offense and subject to a fine of not less than \$500  
22 and not more than \$1,000.

23 (Source: P.A. 93-513, eff. 1-1-04.)