

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 Section 12-215 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, vehicles of the Illinois Department of
19 Corrections, and vehicles of the Illinois Department of
20 Juvenile Justice;

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

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

26 9. Vehicles that are equipped and used exclusively as

1 organ transplant vehicles when used in combination with
2 blue oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights;
3 furthermore, these lights shall be lighted only when the
4 transportation is declared an emergency by a member of the
5 transplant team or a representative of the organ
6 procurement organization;

7 10. Vehicles of the Illinois Department of Natural
8 Resources that are used for mine rescue and explosives
9 emergency response; ~~and~~

10 11. Vehicles of the Illinois Department of
11 Transportation identified as Emergency Traffic Patrol; the
12 lights shall not be lighted except when responding to an
13 emergency call or when parked or stationary while engaged
14 in motor vehicle assistance or at the scene of the
15 emergency; and

16 12. Vehicles of the Illinois State Toll Highway
17 Authority identified as Highway Emergency Lane Patrol; the
18 lights shall not be lighted except when responding to an
19 emergency call or when parked or stationary while engaged
20 in motor vehicle assistance or at the scene of the
21 emergency.

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

24 1. Second division vehicles designed and used for
25 towing or hoisting vehicles; furthermore, such lights
26 shall not be lighted except as required in this paragraph

1 1; such lights shall be lighted when such vehicles are
2 actually being used at the scene of an accident or
3 disablement; if the towing vehicle is equipped with a flat
4 bed that supports all wheels of the vehicle being
5 transported, the lights shall not be lighted while the
6 vehicle is engaged in towing on a highway; if the towing
7 vehicle is not equipped with a flat bed that supports all
8 wheels of a vehicle being transported, the lights shall be
9 lighted while the towing vehicle is engaged in towing on a
10 highway during all times when the use of headlights is
11 required under Section 12-201 of this Code; in addition,
12 these vehicles may use white oscillating, rotating, or
13 flashing lights in combination with amber oscillating,
14 rotating, or flashing lights as provided in this paragraph;

15 2. Motor vehicles or equipment of the State of
16 Illinois, the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, local
17 authorities and contractors; furthermore, such lights
18 shall not be lighted except while such vehicles are engaged
19 in maintenance or construction operations within the
20 limits of construction projects;

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

25 4. Vehicles of public utilities, municipalities, or
26 other construction, maintenance or automotive service

1 vehicles except that such lights shall be lighted only as a
2 means for indicating the presence of a vehicular traffic
3 hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, overtaking
4 or passing while such vehicles are engaged in maintenance,
5 service or construction on a highway;

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

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

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

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

24 8. Such other vehicles as may be authorized by local
25 authorities;

26 9. Law enforcement vehicles of State or local

1 authorities when used in combination with red oscillating,
2 rotating or flashing lights;

3 9.5. Propane delivery trucks;

4 10. Vehicles used for collecting or delivering mail for
5 the United States Postal Service provided that such lights
6 shall not be lighted except when such vehicles are actually
7 being used for such purposes;

8 10.5. Vehicles of the Office of the Illinois State Fire
9 Marshal, provided that such lights shall not be lighted
10 except for when such vehicles are engaged in work for the
11 Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal;

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

14 12. All trucks equipped with self-compactors or
15 roll-off hoists and roll-on containers for garbage,
16 recycling, or refuse hauling. Such lights shall not be
17 lighted except when such vehicles are actually being used
18 for such purposes;

19 13. Vehicles used by a security company, alarm
20 responder, control agency, or the Illinois Department of
21 Corrections;

22 14. Security vehicles of the Department of Human
23 Services; however, the lights shall not be lighted except
24 when being used for security related purposes under the
25 direction of the superintendent of the facility where the
26 vehicle is located; and

1 15. Vehicles of union representatives, except that the
2 lights shall be lighted only while the vehicle is within
3 the limits of a construction project.

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

6 1. Rescue squad vehicles not owned by a fire department
7 and vehicles owned or operated by a:

8 voluntary firefighter;

9 paid firefighter;

10 part-paid firefighter;

11 call firefighter;

12 member of the board of trustees of a fire
13 protection district;

14 paid or unpaid member of a rescue squad;

15 paid or unpaid member of a voluntary ambulance
16 unit; or

17 paid or unpaid members of a local or county
18 emergency management services agency as defined in the
19 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, designated
20 or authorized by local authorities, in writing, and
21 carrying that designation or authorization in the
22 vehicle.

23 However, such lights are not to be lighted except when
24 responding to a bona fide emergency or when parked or
25 stationary at the scene of a fire, rescue call, ambulance
26 call, or motor vehicle accident.

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

8 (A) the name of the fire department, fire
9 protection district, rescue squad, ambulance unit, or
10 emergency management services agency;

11 (B) the member's position within the fire
12 department, fire protection district, rescue squad,
13 ambulance unit, or emergency management services
14 agency;

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

16 (D) the name of a person within the fire
17 department, fire protection district, rescue squad,
18 ambulance unit, or emergency management services
19 agency to contact to verify the information provided.

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

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

25 4. Vehicles of local fire departments and State or
26 federal firefighting vehicles when used in combination

1 with red oscillating, rotating or flashing lights.

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

7 6. Vehicles that are equipped and used exclusively as
8 organ transport vehicles when used in combination with red
9 oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights; furthermore,
10 these lights shall only be lighted when the transportation
11 is declared an emergency by a member of the transplant team
12 or a representative of the organ procurement organization.

13 7. Vehicles of the Illinois Emergency Management
14 Agency, vehicles of the Office of the Illinois State Fire
15 Marshal, vehicles of the Illinois Department of Public
16 Health, vehicles of the Illinois Department of
17 Corrections, and vehicles of the Illinois Department of
18 Juvenile Justice, when used in combination with red
19 oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights.

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

24 9. Vehicles of the Illinois Department of Natural
25 Resources that are used for mine rescue and explosives
26 emergency response, when used in combination with red

1 oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights.

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

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

20 (d) The use of a combination of amber and white
21 oscillating, rotating or flashing lights, whether lighted or
22 unlighted, is prohibited except on second division vehicles
23 designed and used for towing or hoisting vehicles or motor
24 vehicles or equipment of the State of Illinois, local
25 authorities, contractors, and union representatives;
26 furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted on second

1 division vehicles designed and used for towing or hoisting
2 vehicles or vehicles of the State of Illinois, local
3 authorities, and contractors except while such vehicles are
4 engaged in a tow operation, highway maintenance, or
5 construction operations within the limits of highway
6 construction projects, and shall not be lighted on the vehicles
7 of union representatives except when those vehicles are within
8 the limits of a construction project.

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

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

24 (g) Any person violating the provisions of subsections (a),
25 (b), (c) or (d) of this Section who without lawful authority
26 stops or detains or attempts to stop or detain another person

1 shall be guilty of a Class 2 felony.

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

5 (Source: P.A. 97-39, eff. 1-1-12; 97-149, eff. 7-14-11; 97-813,
6 eff. 7-13-12; 97-1173, eff. 1-1-14; 98-80, eff. 7-15-13;
7 98-123, eff. 1-1-14; 98-468, eff. 8-16-13; 98-756, eff.
8 7-16-14; 98-873, eff. 1-1-15; revised 10-6-14.)