

State of Illinois
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Springfield, Illinois 62706

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

August 22, 2002

To the Honorable Members of
The Illinois Senate
92nd General Assembly

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor by Article IV, Section 9(e) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, and re-affirmed by the People of the State of Illinois by popular referendum in 1974, and conforming to the standard articulated by the Illinois Supreme Court in People ex rel. Klinger v. Howlett, 50 Ill.2d 242 (1972), Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Co. v. Zagel, 78 Ill.2d 387 (1979), People ex rel. City of Canton v. Crouch, 79 Ill.2d 356 (1980) and County of Kane v. Carlson, 116 Ill.2d 186 (1987), that gubernatorial action be consistent with the fundamental purposes and the intent of the bill, I hereby return Senate Bill 1657 entitled "AN ACT in relation to vehicles," with my specific recommendations for change.

Senate Bill 1657 requires drivers, when in a road construction or maintenance zone, to move over to the traffic lane farthest from construction or maintenance workers, if it is safe to do so. The bill requires a mandatory court appearance for failing to change lanes when approaching a stationary emergency vehicle with flashing lights. It also allows union representatives to use emergency oscillating lights on their motor vehicle within the limits of a construction project and when parked alongside any roadway.

I have received several bills this year expanding the types of vehicles allowed to have oscillating emergency lights. We must take care to limit the expansion of emergency light usage by non-emergency entities. In granting union representatives the authority to use emergency oscillating lights on their vehicles when parked alongside any roadway, the bill moves outside the specific objective of increasing safety within construction and maintenance zones. I believe that use of the oscillating lights by union representatives should be limited to construction zones.

For these reasons, I hereby return Senate Bill 1657 with the following recommendations for change:

- On page 8, by replacing lines 7 and 8 with "within the limits of a construction project."; and
On page 9, by replacing lines 33 and 34 with "are within the limits of a construction project.".

With these changes, Senate Bill 1657 will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Sincerely,
George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR