

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** House Bill 1414

**PRINTER NO.** 3204

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

Motor License Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

May 19, 2017

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Barrar

**DESCRIPTION**

House Bill 1414 amends Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to authorize special lighting requirements for tow trucks, vehicles used by probation officers in the First Judicial District of Philadelphia, privately-owned vehicles used in answering emergency calls, solid waste collection vehicles, and certain fire police vehicles.

This legislation does the following:

- Amends the definition of “emergency vehicle” to include a vehicle owned by a city of the first class and operated by first judicial district certified armed probation officers;
- Defines “solid waste collection vehicle” as a vehicle used for the curbside collection of municipal solid waste or recyclables;
- Amends § 4571 (relating to visual and audible signals on emergency vehicles) by extending authority to a fire police captain and a fire police lieutenant to use flashing or revolving lights mounted internally in the passenger compartment of fire department vehicles or privately owned vehicles when used in answering an emergency call;
- Amends § 4572 (relating to visual signals on authorized vehicles) by authorizing the use of flashing or revolving blue lights mounted internally in the passenger compartment of a privately owned vehicle used in answering an emergency call;
- Adds a new § 4572.1 (relating to flashing or revolving yellow and white lights) permitting the use of one or more flashing or revolving yellow lights and one or more flashing or revolving white lights on tow trucks. The manner in which the lights shall be displayed shall be determined by regulation of the Department of Transportation (department). The yellow and/or white lights shall be activated only when the vehicle is actively performing tow truck duties or is in the vicinity of an emergency response area. The use of flashing or revolving yellow and white lights is prohibited when:
  - 1) Not engaged in the act of towing a vehicle;
  - 2) Brake lights, turn signals and operating lights are visible from the rear and not obstructed; or
  - 3) The vehicle being towed does not trail behind the tow truck and is securely positioned on the flatbed of the tow truck with no parts of the towed vehicle overhanging.

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Unauthorized use of the lights specified in this new section shall be a summary offense punishable by a fine of \$50;

- Adds a new § 4572.2 (relating to solid waste collection vehicles) requiring solid waste collection vehicles to be equipped with a bright yellow strobe light affixed to the roof, which shall be mounted to provide visibility to vehicles approaching from any direction, in accordance with department regulations. The strobe light shall be active while stopped upon a street and while engaged in the collection of garbage, solid wastes, recyclables and refuse or while moving between stops at a speed not greater than 10 miles per hour. A driver approaching and passing a stationary solid waste collection vehicle with an activated bright yellow strobe light shall proceed as follows:
  - 1) Make a lane change into a lane not adjacent to the solid waste collection vehicle, if possible in the existing safety and traffic conditions;
  - 2) Reduce the speed of the vehicle and be prepared to stop.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.