



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1414

PRINTERS NO. 2920

PRIME SPONSOR: Barrar

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2017/18	FY 2018/19
Commonwealth Funds	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: Amends Title 75 (Vehicle Code) by amending the definition of 'emergency vehicle', authorizing visual and audible signals on emergency vehicles for additional fire personnel, flashing yellow and white lights on tow trucks, yellow strobe lights for solid waste collection vehicles, and mounted internal blue lights for volunteer firefighters. This legislation would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: This legislation makes the following amendments to the Vehicle Code:

§102 (Definitions): 'Emergency vehicle' is amended to include a vehicle owned by a city of the first class and operated by first judicial district certified armed probation officers. These vehicles are now authorized to be equipped with one or more revolving or flashing red lights and an audible warning system, granted under §4571 (Visual and audible signals on emergency vehicles).

'Solid waste collection vehicle' is defined as a vehicle used for the curbside collection of municipal solid waste or recyclables.

§4571 (Visual and audible signals on emergency vehicles): The existing section is amended to extend the use of flashing or revolving internal lights in vehicles used in answering emergency calls to fire police captains or fire police lieutenants that comply with PennDOT's regulations.

§4572.1 (Flashing or revolving yellow and white lights): This newly established section states that tow trucks are authorized to be equipped with yellow and white flashing or revolving lights. Limitations on the usage of those lights are listed, and they shall not be operated when:

- Not engaged in the act of towing a vehicle;
- Brake lights, turn signals and operating lights are visible from the rear and not obstructed;
- 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.

The penalty for misuse under the section is a \$50 fine.

§4572.2 (Solid waste collection vehicles): This newly established section authorizes solid waste collection vehicles to use a bright yellow strobe, visible from all directions, and provides requirements that the yellow strobe must be active when stopped upon a street and while engaged in the collection of garbage, solid waste, recyclables and refuse while moving between stops at a speed not greater than 10 miles per hour.

General rules of the road for the motoring public when interacting with solid waste collection vehicles are also prescribed. An approaching vehicle shall:

- Make a lane change into a lane not adjacent to the solid waste collection, if possible;
- If the above is impossible, prohibited by law or unsafe, reduce speed of the motor vehicle to a reasonable and proper speed for the existing road and traffic conditions, which shall be less than the posted speed limit, and be prepared to stop.

§4572(a) (Visual signals on authorized vehicles): The existing section is amended to state that PennDOT may not prohibit 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 that otherwise comply with PennDOT regulations.

FISCAL IMPACT: This legislation would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth or local funds.

PREPARED BY: Tim Rodrigo
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: January 23, 2018

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.