

VEHICLE CODE (75 PA.C.S) - OMNIBUS AMENDMENTS  
Act of Jun. 26, 2001, P.L. 734, No. 75  
Session of 2001  
No. 2001-75

Cl. 75

HB 155

AN ACT

Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, adding and amending definitions; further providing for registration plates, for licensing of drivers, for driver's license violations, for commercial drivers, for obedience to and effect of traffic laws, for traffic-control devices, for restrictions of use of limited access highways, for right-of-way, for maximum speed limits, for rights and duties of pedestrians, for fleeing or attempting to elude police officer, for lighting equipment, for equipment of authorized and emergency vehicles, for inspection requirements and for enforcement; and providing for a shared-ride pilot program for persons with disabilities.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The definition of "emergency vehicle" in section 102 of Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended and the section is amended by adding definitions to read:

§ 102. Definitions.

Subject to additional definitions contained in subsequent provisions of this title which are applicable to specific provisions of this title, the following words and phrases when used in this title shall have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

\* \* \*

**"Ambulance."** Any vehicle which is specifically designed, constructed or modified and equipped and is used or intended to be used and is maintained or operated for the purpose of providing emergency medical care to and transportation of human patients. The term includes advanced or basic life support vehicles that may or may not transport such patients.

\* \* \*

**"Blood delivery vehicle."** Any vehicle which is used or intended to be used and is maintained or operated for the purpose of transporting blood or blood products on an emergency basis.

\* \* \*

**"Emergency vehicle."** A fire department vehicle, police vehicle, sheriff vehicle, ambulance, blood[-]delivery vehicle, **human organ delivery vehicle**, hazardous material response vehicle, armed forces emergency vehicle, one vehicle operated by a coroner or chief county medical examiner and one vehicle

operated by a chief deputy coroner or deputy chief county medical examiner used for answering emergency calls, or any other vehicle designated by the State Police under section 6106 (relating to designation of emergency vehicles by Pennsylvania State Police), or a privately owned vehicle used in answering an emergency call when used by any of the following:

- (1) A police chief and assistant chief.
- (2) A fire chief, assistant chief and, when a fire company has three or more fire vehicles, a second or third assistant chief.
- (3) A fire police captain and fire police lieutenant.
- (4) An ambulance corps commander and assistant commander.
- (5) A river rescue commander and assistant commander.
- (6) A county emergency management coordinator.
- (7) A fire marshal.
- (8) A rescue service chief and assistant chief.

\* \* \*

**"Fire department vehicle." A vehicle owned or leased by an organized paid or volunteer fire department.**

\* \* \*

**"Hazardous material response vehicle." A vehicle owned or leased by a hazardous material response team certified through the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.**

\* \* \*

**"Human organ delivery vehicle." Any vehicle which is used or intended to be used and is maintained or operated for the purpose of transporting human organs or human tissue on an emergency basis.**

\* \* \*

Section 2. Sections 1339 and 1341 of Title 75 are amended to read:

§ 1339. Legislative plate.

Upon application by a member **or retired member** of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth or the Congress of the United States, the department [shall] **may** issue special registration plates indicating that the vehicle is owned by a member **or retired member** of the Pennsylvania or United States Senate or House of Representatives, as appropriate.

§ 1341. [Personal plate] **Special registration plates generally .**

Upon request by the applicant, the department may issue registration plates consisting of any combination of numbers, letters or numbers and letters. These special plates may be issued for special groups or for special purposes and bear an appropriate designation. **Special groups may charge a fee for authorization to request a registration plate bearing the name of the group.** They shall have the same force and effect as regular registration plates. The department may refuse any combination of letters and numbers for cause and shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations for the issuance of the plates and for carrying out the provisions of this section. The applicant shall comply with all laws and regulations pertaining to registration including the payment of any additional fees. The department is authorized to reissue a combination of numbers

or letters for a personal plate if the department records reveal that no activity, such as renewal or transfer of the personal registration plate, has occurred for a period of five or more consecutive years and provided that the personal registration plate was never reported as lost or stolen. Whenever the department reissues an inactive personal plate, the department may purge its records of all references to the previous owners of that personal plate. The department shall, however, note upon its records the reissuance of the personal plate and to whom the plate was issued.

Section 3. Sections 1510 and 1610 of Title 75 are amended by adding subsections to read:

§ 1510. Issuance and content of driver's license.

\* \* \*

**(h) Sale of photographs prohibited.--Neither the department nor any person under contract with the department shall sell photographs of holders of a driver's license or identification card for any commercial purpose.**

§ 1610. Commercial driver's license.

\* \* \*

**(f) Sale of photographs prohibited.--Neither the department nor any person under contract with the department shall sell photographs of holders of a commercial driver's license for any commercial purpose.**

Section 4. Sections 3102, 3105, 3107(c), 3111(a), 3113, 3313(d) and 3325 of Title 75 are amended to read:

§ 3102. Obedience to authorized persons directing traffic.

No person shall willfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of any uniformed police officer, sheriff or constable or, in an emergency, a railroad or street railway police officer; or any appropriately attired person, including an agent or employee of the funeral director during a funeral, authorized to direct, control or regulate traffic **or an employee who has been trained in traffic control by a licensed and insured private security company and who is acting in the scope of employment .**

§ 3105. Drivers of emergency vehicles.

(a) General rule.--The driver of an emergency vehicle, when responding to an emergency call or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm **or other emergency call**, may exercise the privileges set forth in this section, but subject to the conditions stated in this section.

(b) Exercise of special privileges.--The driver of an emergency vehicle may:

(1) Park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this part.

(2) Proceed past a red signal indication or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation, except as provided in subsection (d).

(3) Exceed the maximum speed limits so long as the driver does not endanger life or property, except as provided in subsection (d).

(4) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement , **overtaking vehicles** or turning in specified

directions.

(c) Audible and visual signals required.--The privileges granted in this section to an emergency vehicle shall apply only when the vehicle is making use of an audible signal and visual signals meeting the requirements and standards set forth in regulations adopted by the department[, except that an emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle need not be equipped with or display the visual signals. An ambulance which is transporting a patient may use either the lights or the audible warning system, or both, as determined by the driver of the ambulance].

(d) Ambulances [and blood-delivery] , **blood delivery vehicles and human organ delivery vehicles** .--The driver of an ambulance [or blood-delivery] , **blood delivery vehicle or human organ delivery vehicle** shall comply with maximum speed limits, red signal indications and stop signs. After ascertaining that the ambulance [or blood-delivery] , **blood delivery vehicle or human organ delivery vehicle** will be given the right-of-way, the driver may proceed through a red signal indication or stop sign.

(e) Exercise of care.--This section does not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

(f) Pedalcycles.--No part of this [title] **section** shall be construed to restrict the operation of a pedalcycle used by a police officer during the course of performing official duties.

(g) **Emergency vehicle preemption devices.--**

(1) **The department may promulgate regulations for the operation and use of preemptive traffic devices by emergency vehicles.**

(2) **An individual other than authorized emergency personnel who operates or uses a preemptive traffic device commits a misdemeanor of the third degree.**

(3) **The possession of a preemptive traffic device by an individual who is not an authorized user of the device is prohibited. The device if in the possession of a nonauthorized user shall be deemed contraband and shall be seized by a law enforcement officer.**

§ 3107. Drivers in funeral processions.

\* \* \*

(c) Right-of-way to emergency vehicles.--This section does not relieve the driver of a vehicle which is being driven in a funeral procession from yielding the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle making use of audible [or] **and** visual signals, nor from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

§ 3111. Obedience to traffic-control devices.

(a) General rule.--Unless otherwise directed by a uniformed police officer or any appropriately attired person authorized to direct, control or regulate traffic, the driver of any vehicle shall obey the instructions of any applicable official traffic-control device placed or held in accordance with the provisions of this title, subject to the privileges granted the driver of an [authorized] emergency vehicle in this title.

\* \* \*

§ 3113. Pedestrian-control signals.

(a) General rule.--Whenever special pedestrian-control signals exhibiting words or symbols are in place, the signals shall indicate as follows:

(1) Word "Walk" or walking person symbol.--Pedestrians facing the signal should proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right-of-way by the drivers of all vehicles.

(2) Phrase "Don't Walk" or upraised hand symbol.--Pedestrians should not start to cross the roadway in the direction of the signal, but any pedestrian who has partially completed his crossing on the "Walk" signal should proceed to a sidewalk or safety zone while the "Don't Walk" signal is showing.

(3) Flashing "Walk".--Pedestrians facing the signal are cautioned that there is possible hazard from turning vehicles, but pedestrians may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal and shall be given the right-of-way by the drivers of all vehicles.

(4) Flashing "Don't Walk" Signal.--Pedestrians should not start to cross the roadway in the direction of the signal, but any pedestrian who has partly completed crossing during the "Walk" signal should proceed to a sidewalk or safety zone, and all drivers of vehicles shall yield to the pedestrian.

(b) Local regulation.--This section does not prohibit a municipality from establishing a summary offense for violation of subsection (a) (2) or (4).

**(c) Penalties.--The driver of a vehicle who violates subsection (a) commits a summary offense and, upon conviction, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of \$50. This subsection shall not apply to those municipalities that establish a summary offense as authorized under subsection (b) with a fine in excess of \$50.**

§ 3313. Restrictions on use of limited access highways.

\* \* \*

(d) Driving in right lane.--[Vehicles shall be driven in the lane nearest the right-hand edge of the roadway, except when overtaking another vehicle, or for a distance of up to two miles in preparation for a left turn, or as directed by official traffic control devices, police officers or appropriately attired persons authorized to divert, control or regulate traffic.]

**(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) and unless otherwise posted, upon all limited access highways having two or more lanes for traffic moving in the same direction, all vehicles shall be driven in the right-hand lanes when available for traffic except when any of the following conditions exist:**

**(i) When overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction.**

**(ii) When traveling at a speed greater than the traffic flow.**

**(iii) When moving left to allow traffic to merge.**

**(iv) When preparing for a left turn at an intersection, exit or into a private road or driveway**

when such left turn is legally permitted.

(2) Unless otherwise posted, no vehicle or combination over 10,000 pounds may be driven in the left-hand lane of a limited access highway having three or more lanes for traffic moving in the same direction except when preparing for a left turn at an intersection, an exit or into a private road or driveway when such left turn is legally permitted.

§ 3325. Duty of driver on approach of emergency vehicle.

(a) General rule.--Upon the immediate approach of an emergency vehicle making use of an audible signal and visual signals meeting the requirements and standards set forth in regulations adopted by the department, [or of a police vehicle properly and lawfully making use of an audible signal only,] the driver of every other vehicle shall yield the right-of-way and shall immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway clear of any intersection and shall stop and remain in that position until the emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer **or an appropriately attired person authorized to direct, control or regulate traffic**. On one-way roadways a driver may comply by driving to the edge or curb which is nearest to the lane in which he is traveling.

(b) Duty of operator of streetcar.--Upon the approach of an emergency vehicle, the operator of every streetcar shall immediately stop the streetcar clear of any intersection and remain in that position until the emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police officer[.] **or an appropriately attired person authorized to direct, control or regulate traffic.**

(c) Defense.--It is a defense to prosecution under this section if the defendant can show by a preponderance of the evidence that the failure to stop immediately for a police officer was based on a good faith concern for personal safety. In determining whether the defendant has met this burden, the court may consider the following factors:

- (1) The time and location of the event.
- (2) The type of vehicle used by the police officer.
- (3) The defendant's conduct while being followed by the police officer.
- (4) Whether the defendant stopped at the first available reasonably lighted or populated area.
- (5) Any other factor considered relevant by the court.

Section 5. Title 75 is amended by adding sections to read:

§ 3327. Duty of driver in emergency response areas.

(a) General rule.--When approaching or passing an emergency response area, no person shall drive a vehicle:

- (1) at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions, having regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing; or
- (2) in disobedience of instructions or indications relating to traffic flow which are made, either verbally or through the use of signs, flares, signals, lights or other traffic control devices, by law enforcement personnel or emergency service responders.

(b) Penalty.--Any person violating subsection (a) commits a

summary offense and shall, upon conviction, pay a fine of \$85.

(c) Marking.--An emergency response area shall be clearly marked with road flares, caution signs or any other traffic-control device which law enforcement officials may have at their immediate disposal.

(d) Reports by emergency service responders.--

(1) An emergency service responder observing a violation of subsection (a) may prepare a written, signed report which indicates that a violation has occurred. To the extent possible, the report shall include the following information:

(i) Information pertaining to the identity of the alleged violator.

(ii) The license number and color of the vehicle involved in the violation.

(iii) The time and approximate location at which the violation occurred.

(iv) Identification of the vehicle as an automobile, station wagon, motor truck, motor bus, motorcycle or other type of vehicle.

(2) Within 48 hours after the violation occurs, the emergency service responder shall deliver a copy of the report to a police officer having authority to exercise police power in the area where the violation occurred. If the police officer believes that the report established a sufficient basis for the issuance of a citation, the officer shall file a citation and a copy of the report with the issuing authority. If the issuing authority determines that the report and citation establish a sufficient basis for the issuance of a summons, a summons shall be issued in accordance with general rules governing the institution of proceedings in summary traffic offense cases. The issuing authority shall send the defendant a copy of the citation, together with a statement that it was filed by the police officer named in the citation on the basis of information received.

(3) A person may institute a proceeding pursuant to this subsection or in accordance with any means authorized by the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure.

(e) Fines to be doubled.--In addition to any penalty as provided in subsection (b), the fine for any of the following violations when committed in an emergency response area manned by emergency service responders shall be double the usual amount:

Section 3102 (relating to obedience to authorized persons directing traffic).

Section 3111 (relating to obedience to traffic-control devices).

Section 3114 (relating to flashing signals).

Section 3302 (relating to meeting vehicle proceeding in opposite direction).

Section 3303 (relating to overtaking vehicle on the left).

Section 3304 (relating to overtaking vehicle on the right).

Section 3305 (relating to limitations on overtaking on

the left).

Section 3306 (relating to limitations on driving on left side of roadway).

Section 3307 (relating to no-passing zones).

Section 3310 (relating to following too closely).

Section 3312 (relating to limited access highway entrances and exits).

Section 3323 (relating to stop signs and yield signs).

Section 3325 (relating to duty of driver on approach of emergency vehicle).

Section 3361 (relating to driving vehicle at safe speed).

Section 3707 (relating to driving or stopping close to fire apparatus).

Section 3710 (relating to stopping at intersection or crossing to prevent obstruction).

Section 3714 (relating to careless driving).

Section 3715.1 (relating to restriction on alcoholic beverages).

Section 3731 (relating to driving under influence of alcohol or controlled substance).

Section 3736 (relating to reckless driving).

(f) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

"Emergency response area." The area in which emergency service responders render emergency assistance to individuals on or near a roadway.

"Emergency service responder." An individual acting in an official capacity as police officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff, coroner, deputy coroner, firefighter, fire police, fire marshal, medical examiner, deputy medical examiner, rescue personnel, ambulance personnel, hazardous material response team member or emergency medical service personnel.

§ 3328. Unmarked police vehicles.

(a) General rule.--The Pennsylvania State Police, in consultation with the department, shall promulgate regulations for the use of unmarked vehicles by police officers. The regulations shall:

(1) establish the procedure to be used by a police officer in an unmarked vehicle when stopping a motorist;

(2) require the use of audible and visual signals which meet the requirements and standards set forth in this title and in regulations adopted by the department; and

(3) establish requirements for the wearing of an official police uniform and the display of official police identification.

(b) Public awareness.--The Pennsylvania State Police and the department shall provide for the dissemination of information to the public regarding the use of unmarked vehicles. Such information shall accompany annual vehicle registration or vehicle registration renewal forms distributed by the department no earlier than July 1, 2002.

Section 6. Sections 3362(a)(1.1), 3542, 3548, 3733(a) and (c), 4306, 4571, 4572 and 4702(b)(7) of Title 75 are amended to read:



§ 3362. Maximum speed limits.

(a) General rule.--Except when a special hazard exists that requires lower speed for compliance with section 3361 (relating to driving vehicle at safe speed), the limits specified in this section or established under this subchapter shall be maximum lawful speeds and no person shall drive a vehicle at a speed in excess of the following maximum limits:

\* \* \*

(1.1) 65 miles per hour for all vehicles[:]

(i) on interstate highways outside of urbanized areas of population of 50,000 or more; and

(ii)] on [other] freeways where the department has posted a 65-miles-per-hour speed limit [in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. (relating to highways)].

\* \* \*

§ 3542. Right-of-way of pedestrians in crosswalks.

(a) General rule.--When traffic-control signals are not in place or not in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.

(b) Exercise of care by pedestrian.--No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close as to constitute a hazard.

(c) Limitation on vehicles passing.--Whenever any vehicle is stopped at any crosswalk at an intersection or at any marked crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway, the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear shall not overtake and pass the stopped vehicle.

(d) Application of section.--Subsection (a) does not apply under the conditions stated in section 3543(b) (relating to pedestrians crossing at other than crosswalks).

**(e) Penalties.--The driver of a vehicle who violates subsection (a) commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of \$50.**

§ 3548. Pedestrians to yield to [authorized] emergency vehicles.

(a) General rule.--Upon the immediate approach of an [authorized] emergency vehicle making use of audible and visual signals meeting the requirements of this title, [or of a police vehicle properly and lawfully making use of an audible signal only,] every pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to the [authorized] emergency vehicle.

(b) Exercise of care by driver.--This section does not relieve the driver of an [authorized] emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway nor from the duty to exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian.

§ 3733. Fleeing or attempting to elude police officer.

(a) Offense defined.--Any driver of a motor vehicle who willfully fails or refuses to bring his vehicle to a stop, or who otherwise flees or attempts to elude a pursuing police officer, when given **a** visual [or] **and** audible signal to bring the vehicle to a stop, commits a misdemeanor of the second

degree. Any driver upon conviction shall pay an additional fine of \$500. This fine shall be in addition to and not in lieu of all other fines, court expenses, jail sentences or penalties.

\* \* \*

(c) Defenses.--

(1) It is a defense to a prosecution under this section that the pursuing police **officer's** vehicle was not clearly identifiable by its markings or, if unmarked, was not occupied by a police officer who was in uniform and displaying a badge or other sign of authority.

(2) **It is a defense to prosecution under this section if the defendant can show by a preponderance of the evidence that the failure to stop immediately for a police officer's vehicle was based upon a good faith concern for personal safety. In determining whether the defendant has met this burden, the court may consider the following factors:**

(i) The time and location of the event.

(ii) The type of police vehicle used by the police officer.

(iii) The defendant's conduct while being followed by the police officer.

(iv) Whether the defendant stopped at the first available reasonably lighted or populated area.

(v) Any other factor considered relevant by the court.

§ 4306. Use of multiple-beam road lighting equipment.

(a) Approaching an oncoming vehicle.--Whenever the driver of a vehicle approaches an oncoming vehicle within 500 feet, the driver shall use the low beam of light.

(b) Approaching a vehicle from rear.--Whenever the driver of a vehicle approaches another vehicle from the rear within 300 feet, the driver shall use the low beam of light.

(c) Exception.--

(1) [A police or sheriff vehicle] **An emergency vehicle** which is equipped with a flashing headlamp system that conforms to regulations promulgated by the department shall be exempt from the provisions of this section only when the vehicle is being used pursuant to the provisions of section 4571(e) (relating to visual and audible signals on emergency vehicles).

(2) Nothing in this section shall limit drivers from flashing high beams at oncoming vehicles as a warning of roadway emergencies or other dangerous or hazardous conditions ahead.

§ 4571. Visual and audible signals on emergency vehicles.

(a) General rule.--Every emergency vehicle shall be equipped with one or more revolving or flashing red lights and an audible warning system. Spotlights with adjustable sockets may be attached to or mounted on emergency vehicles.

(b) Police, sheriff, fire and coroner or medical examiner vehicles.--

(1) Police, sheriff, coroner, medical examiner or fire police vehicles may in addition to the requirements of subsection (a) be equipped with **one or more** revolving or flashing blue lights. The combination of red and blue lights

may be used only on police, sheriff, coroner, medical examiner or fire police vehicles.

(2) Unmarked police and sheriff vehicles[,] used as emergency vehicles and equipped with audible warning systems[, may] **shall** be equipped with the lights described in this [section] **subsection** .

**(b.1) Mounted lights and additional equipment.--**

[3] **(1)** Police, sheriff and fire vehicles may be equipped with a mounted rack containing one or more emergency warning lights or side mounted floodlights or alley lights or all such lights[,] , in conformance with department regulations.

(2) Additional visual or audible warning signal equipment, including, but not limited to, flashing headlamp system, flashing or revolving white or clear lights, steady burning lights, traffic-control emergency directional light assembly, amber lights and intersection lights, may be utilized on emergency vehicles in accordance with regulations promulgated by the department.

(c.1) Public Utility Commission vehicles.--Vehicles owned or operated by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and used in the enforcement of 66 Pa.C.S. Chs. 23 (relating to common carriers) and 25 (relating to contract carrier by motor vehicle and broker) may be equipped with revolving or flashing red lights in accordance with subsection (a).

(d) Vehicles prohibited from using signals.--Except as otherwise specifically provided in this [part] **section** , no vehicle other than an emergency vehicle may be equipped with revolving or flashing lights or audible warning systems identical or similar to those specified in subsections (a) and (b). **A person who equips or uses a vehicle with visual or audible warning systems in violation of this section commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000.**

(e) Authorized period of use.--The lights and warning systems specified by this section may be used only during an emergency , or in the interest of public safety [and] , **or** by police officers, sheriffs and deputy sheriffs in enforcement of the law. [An ambulance which is transporting a patient may use either the lights or the audible warning system, or both, as determined by the driver of the ambulance.] **Unauthorized use of the lights and warning systems specified by this section shall be a summary offense punishable by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000.**

(f) Conformity with department regulations.--All equipment authorized or required by this section shall conform to department regulations.

§ 4572. Visual signals on authorized vehicles.

(a) Flashing or revolving blue lights.--Ambulance personnel, volunteer firefighters , **certified volunteer search and rescue scuba divers** and owners and handlers of dogs used in tracking humans may each equip one motor vehicle with no more than two flashing or revolving blue lights.

(1) In order to be eligible to display lights on their vehicles under this subsection, the names of the ambulance

personnel [and] , volunteer firefighters **and certified volunteer search and rescue scuba divers** shall be submitted to the nearest station of the Pennsylvania State Police on a list signed by the chief of the ambulance or fire department or company , **the head of the search and rescue scuba diving organization,** and each dog owner and handler shall register at the nearest Pennsylvania State Police station.

(2) The manner in which the lights are displayed and their intensity shall be determined by regulation of the department.

(3) The lights shall be operable by the driver from inside the vehicle.

(4) The lights may be used only while en route to or at the scene of a fire or emergency call.

(5) The lights shall be removed from the vehicle [within ten days of] **immediately upon** receipt of notice from the chief of the ambulance or fire department or company **or the head of the search and rescue scuba diving organization** to remove the lights upon termination of the person's status as an active volunteer firefighter or ambulance person or upon termination of the person's active status as a **certified volunteer search and rescue diver or** dog owner or handler, or when the vehicle is no longer used in connection with the person's duties as a volunteer firefighter or ambulance person , **certified volunteer search and rescue diver** or dog owner or handler.

(6) This subsection does not relieve the driver from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons nor exempt the driver from complying with all provisions of this title.

(b) Flashing or revolving yellow lights.--Vehicles authorized pursuant to the provisions of [section] **sections 6106 (relating to designation of emergency vehicles by Pennsylvania State Police) and 6107 (relating to designation of authorized vehicles by department)** , **tow trucks and vehicles used for snow removal** may be equipped with [no more than two] **one or more** flashing or revolving yellow lights. The manner in which the light **or lights** shall be displayed and the intensity shall be determined by regulation of the department.

(c) Vehicles prohibited from using lights.--No vehicle other than a duly authorized vehicle may be equipped with lights identical or similar to those specified in subsections (a) and (b). **A person who equips or uses a vehicle with visual systems in violation of this section commits a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500.**

§ 4702. Requirement for periodic inspection of vehicles.

\* \* \*

(b) Semiannual safety inspection of certain vehicles.--The following vehicles shall be subject to semiannual safety inspections:

\* \* \*

(7) Motor carrier vehicles **with a registered gross weight in excess of 17,000 pounds** , other than farm vehicles for which a biennial certificate of exemption has been

issued.

\* \* \*

Section 7. Section 4704(c) of Title 75 is amended and the section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

§ 4704. Inspection by police or Commonwealth personnel.

\* \* \*

(c) Operation prohibited if hazardous.--

(1) In the event a vehicle or a mass transit vehicle, or its equipment, load or driver, in the reasonable judgment of the officer or qualified Commonwealth employee, is in such condition that further operation would be hazardous, the officer or qualified Commonwealth employee may require that the vehicle or the mass transit vehicle not be operated under its own power or that the driver discontinue driving, or both, and may so stipulate in the notice given under subsection (b). In the case of motor carrier vehicles or their drivers, all such determinations shall be based on out-of-service criteria established in department regulations.

(2) **In the event a motor carrier vehicle or mass transit vehicle is involved in an accident that causes the death of the vehicle operator or another person, the motor carrier vehicle or mass transit vehicle shall be inspected by a qualified Commonwealth employee as designated by the department in accordance with the provisions of subsection (f) before the vehicle or driver will be allowed to continue operation.**

\* \* \*

(h) **Administrative coordination.--The department shall coordinate with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission in the enforcement of this section and 66 Pa.C.S. § 3312(a) (relating to evasion of motor carrier and broker regulations).**

Section 8. Sections 6106 and 6110(a) of Title 75 are amended to read:

§ 6106. Designation of emergency vehicles by Pennsylvania State Police.

(a) General rule.--The Pennsylvania State Police may designate any vehicle or group of vehicles as emergency vehicles upon a finding that the designation is necessary to the preservation of life or property or to the execution of emergency governmental functions.

**(a.1) Exception.--Vehicles designated as emergency vehicles under this section shall not display or be equipped with a combination of red and blue lights.**

(b) Manner and carrying of designation.--The designation shall be in writing and the written designation shall be carried in the vehicle at all times[, but failure to carry the written designation shall not affect the status of the vehicle as an emergency vehicle].

§ 6110. Regulation of traffic on Pennsylvania Turnpike.

(a) General rule.--The provisions of this title apply upon any turnpike or highway under the supervision and control of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission unless specifically modified by rules and regulations promulgated by the commission which shall become effective only upon publication in accordance with law. A copy of the rules and regulations, so long as they are

effective, shall be posted at all entrances to the turnpike or highway for the inspection of persons using the turnpike or highway. This section does not authorize the establishment of a maximum speed limit greater than 55 miles per hour, except that a 65-miles-per-hour maximum speed limit for all vehicles may be established[:

(1) on interstate highways outside of urbanized areas of population of 50,000 or more; and

(2) on other freeways] where the commission has posted a 65-miles-per-hour speed limit [in accordance with the provisions of 23 United States Code (relating to highways)].

\* \* \*

Section 9. Title 75 is amended by adding a chapter to read:

CHAPTER 80

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Subchapter

A. Persons with Disabilities Shared-ride Pilot Program

SUBCHAPTER A

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

SHARED-RIDE PILOT PROGRAM

Sec.

8001. Persons with disabilities shared-ride pilot program.

§ 8001. Persons with disabilities shared-ride pilot program.

The department shall establish or administer a shared-ride pilot program for persons with disabilities, authorizing grants to eligible applicants as determined by the department. The department is further authorized to take any action that will facilitate the gathering or analyzing of information developed by the pilot program.

Section 10. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

APPROVED--The 26th day of June, A. D. 2001.

THOMAS J. RIDGE