
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 898 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY BOYLE, TAYLOR, FREEMAN, THOMAS, DRISCOLL, COHEN,
ZIMMERMAN, KORTZ, GILLEN AND MURT, APRIL 8, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, APRIL 8, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in preliminary provisions, further defining
3 "emergency vehicle"; in operation of vehicles, further
4 providing for drivers of emergency vehicles; and, in other
5 required equipment, further providing for visual and audible
6 signals on emergency vehicles and for visual signals on
7 authorized vehicles.

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

10 Section 1. The definition of "emergency vehicle" in section
11 102 of Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes,
12 amended October 14, 2014 (P.L. 2491, No.140), is amended to
13 read:

14 § 102. Definitions.

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

20 * * *

1 "Emergency vehicle." A State or county emergency management
2 vehicle, fire department vehicle, police vehicle, sheriff
3 vehicle, ambulance, advanced life support squad vehicle, basic
4 life support squad vehicle, emergency canteen support service
5 organization vehicle, blood delivery vehicle, human organ
6 delivery vehicle, hazardous material response vehicle, armed
7 forces emergency vehicle, one vehicle operated by a coroner or
8 chief county medical examiner and one vehicle operated by a
9 chief deputy coroner or deputy chief county medical examiner
10 used for answering emergency calls, a vehicle owned by or leased
11 to a regional emergency medical services council that is used as
12 authorized by the Department of Health to respond to an actual
13 or potential disaster, mass casualty situation or substantial
14 threat to public health, a vehicle owned by a county or regional
15 police association and operated by a police officer that is used
16 for police transport or victim extraction, a vehicle that is
17 owned and operated by a county correctional institution in a
18 city of the first class and used to respond to an emergency at a
19 correctional institution in a city of the first class or to
20 escort an ambulance which is transporting sick or injured
21 prisoners in a city of the first class, any vehicle operated by
22 a special agent, special agent supervisor, narcotics agent or
23 narcotics agent supervisor while performing official duties as
24 employees of the Office of Attorney General, any vehicle owned
25 and operated by the Philadelphia Parking Authority established
26 in accordance with 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 55 (relating to parking
27 authorities) and used in the enforcement of 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 57
28 (relating to taxicabs and limousines in first class cities), a
29 vehicle owned and operated by the Pennsylvania Turnpike
30 Commission that is used by an emergency service responder as

1 dispatched by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's traffic
2 operations center, or any other vehicle designated by the State
3 Police under section 6106 (relating to designation of emergency
4 vehicles by Pennsylvania State Police), or a privately owned
5 vehicle used in answering an emergency call when used by any of
6 the following:

7 (1) A police chief and assistant chief.

8 (2) A fire chief, assistant chief and, when a fire
9 company has three or more fire vehicles, a second or third
10 assistant chief.

11 (3) A fire police captain and fire police lieutenant.

12 (4) An ambulance corps commander and assistant
13 commander.

14 (5) A river rescue commander and assistant commander.

15 (6) A county emergency management coordinator.

16 (7) A fire marshal.

17 (8) A rescue service chief and assistant chief.

18 (9) The chief or operations director of a county
19 hazardous materials response team.

20 * * *

21 Section 2. Section 3105 of Title 75 is amended by adding a
22 subsection to read:

23 § 3105. Drivers of emergency vehicles.

24 * * *

25 (d.1) Vehicles owned and operated by a county correctional
26 institution in a city of the first class.--The driver of a
27 vehicle that is owned and operated by a county correctional
28 institution in a city of the first class and used to respond to
29 an emergency at a correctional institution in a city of the
30 first class or to escort an ambulance which is transporting a

1 sick or injured prisoner in a city of the first class shall
2 comply with maximum speed limits, red signal indications and
3 stop signs. After ascertaining that the vehicle will be given
4 the right-of-way, the driver may proceed through a red signal
5 indication or stop sign.

6 * * *

7 Section 3. Section 4571(f) of Title 75 is amended and
8 subsection (b.1) is amended by adding a paragraph to read:
9 § 4571. Visual and audible signals on emergency vehicles.

10 * * *

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

12 * * *

13 (1.1) Nothing contained in the regulations under
14 paragraph (1) may be construed to require a limit,
15 modification or change of the lighting in police, sheriff and
16 fire vehicles legally complying with regulations as of the
17 date of enactment of this paragraph as long as the vehicle is
18 used as an emergency vehicle.

19 * * *

20 (f) Conformity with department regulations.--[All] Except as
21 provided under subsection (b.1)(1.1), all equipment authorized
22 or required by this section shall conform to department
23 regulations.

24 Section 4. Section 4572(a) of Title 75 is amended by adding
25 a paragraph to read:

26 § 4572. Visual signals on authorized vehicles.

27 (a) Flashing or revolving blue lights.--Ambulance personnel,
28 volunteer firefighters, certified volunteer search and rescue
29 organization members and owners and handlers of dogs used in
30 tracking humans may each equip one motor vehicle with no more

1 than two flashing or revolving blue lights.

2 * * *

3 (2.1) Nothing contained in the regulations under
4 paragraph (2) shall be construed to require a limit,
5 modification or change of the lighting in vehicles legally
6 complying with regulations as of the date of enactment of
7 this paragraph as long as the vehicle is used in a manner
8 that otherwise complies with this section.

9 * * *

10 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.