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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1414 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY BARRAR, BOBACK, V. BROWN, GABLER, GILLEN,  
KAVULICH, MURT, ZIMMERMAN, KORTZ, BARBIN AND MICCARELLI,  
MAY 19, 2017

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SENATOR RAFFERTY, TRANSPORTATION, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED,  
MARCH 26, 2018

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for  
3 definitions; and, in other required equipment, further  
4 providing for visual and audible signals on emergency  
5 vehicles and for visual signals on authorized vehicles and  
6 providing for flashing or revolving yellow and white lights  
7 and for solid waste collection 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 is  
12 amended and the section is amended by adding a definition 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:

1 \* \* \*

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

1 judicial district certified armed probation officers, a vehicle  
2 owned and operated by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission that  
3 is used by an emergency service responder as dispatched by the  
4 Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's traffic operations center, or  
5 any other vehicle designated by the State Police under section  
6 6106 (relating to designation of emergency vehicles by  
7 Pennsylvania State Police), or a privately owned vehicle used in  
8 answering an emergency call when used by any of the following:

9 (1) A police chief and assistant chief.

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

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

14 (4) An ambulance corps commander and assistant  
15 commander.

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

17 (6) A county emergency management coordinator.

18 (7) A fire marshal.

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

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

22 \* \* \*

23 "Solid waste collection vehicle." A vehicle used for the  
24 curbside collection of municipal solid waste or recyclables.

25 \* \* \*

26 Section 2. Section 4571(b.1)(3) of Title 75 is amended to  
27 read:

28 § 4571. Visual and audible signals on emergency vehicles.

29 \* \* \*

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

1 \* \* \*

2 (3) The department may not prohibit the use of flashing  
3 or revolving lights mounted internally in the passenger  
4 compartment of fire department vehicles or privately owned  
5 vehicles used in answering an emergency call when used by a  
6 fire police captain, fire police lieutenant, fire chief,  
7 assistant chief and, when a fire company has three or more  
8 fire vehicles, a second or third assistant chief that comply  
9 with the department's regulations.

10 \* \* \*

11 Section 3. Section 4572(a) introductory paragraph of Title  
12 75 is amended and the subsection is amended by adding a  
13 paragraph to read:

14 § 4572. Visual signals on authorized vehicles.

15 (a) Flashing or revolving blue lights.--Ambulance personnel,  
16 volunteer firefighters, certified volunteer search and rescue  
17 organization members and owners and handlers of dogs used in  
18 tracking humans may each equip one motor vehicle with no more  
19 than two flashing or revolving blue lights. The following shall  
20 apply:

21 \* \* \*

22 (7) The department may not prohibit the use of flashing  
23 or revolving blue lights mounted internally in the passenger  
24 compartment of a privately-owned vehicle used in answering an  
25 emergency call that otherwise comply with the department's  
26 regulations.

27 \* \* \*

28 Section 4. Title 75 is amended by adding sections to read:

29 § 4572.1. Flashing or revolving yellow and white lights.

30 (a) General rule.--Tow trucks may be equipped with one or

1 more flashing or revolving yellow lights and one or more  
2 flashing or revolving white lights. The manner in which the  
3 light or lights shall be displayed and the intensity shall be <--  
4 determined by regulation of the department.

5 (b) Limitations.--The flashing or revolving yellow and white  
6 lights on tow trucks shall be activated only when the vehicle is  
7 actively performing the type of work which is the basis of the  
8 designation of the vehicle as an authorized vehicle or is within  
9 the vicinity of an emergency response area. Tow trucks shall not  
10 operate with activated flashing or revolving yellow and white  
11 lights when:

12 (1) Not engaged in the act of towing a vehicle.

13 (2) Brake lights, turn signals and operating lights are  
14 visible from the rear and not obstructed.

15 (3) The vehicle being towed does not trail behind the  
16 tow truck and is securely positioned on the flatbed of the  
17 tow truck with no parts of the towed vehicle overhanging.

18 (c) Penalty.--Unauthorized use of the lights specified in  
19 this subsection shall be a summary offense punishable by a fine  
20 of \$50.

21 § 4572.2. Solid waste collection vehicles.

22 (a) General rule.--Upon approaching and passing a stationary  
23 solid waste collection vehicle that is giving a visual signal by  
24 means of bright yellow strobe light as required under subsection  
25 (b), the driver of an approaching vehicle shall proceed as  
26 follows:

27 (1) make a lane change into a lane not adjacent to the  
28 solid waste collection vehicle, if possible in the existing  
29 safety and traffic conditions; or

30 (2) if a lane change under paragraph (1) would be

1 impossible, prohibited by law or unsafe, reduce the speed of  
2 the motor vehicle to a reasonable and proper speed for the  
3 existing road and traffic conditions, which shall be less  
4 than the posted speed limit, and be prepared to stop.

5 (b) Requirements for solid waste collection vehicles.--Solid  
6 waste collection vehicles shall be equipped with a bright yellow  
7 strobe light affixed to the roof, which shall be mounted to  
8 provide visibility to vehicles approaching from any direction,  
9 in accordance with department regulations. The strobe light  
10 shall be active while stopped upon a street and while engaged in  
11 the collection of garbage, solid wastes, recyclables and refuse  
12 or while moving between stops at a speed not greater than 10  
13 miles per hour.

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