

2018 -- H 7336 SUBSTITUTE A

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LC004300/SUB A
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - FLASHING VEHICLE LIGHTS

Introduced By: Representatives Canario, Corvese, Azzinaro, Casimiro, and Donovan

Date Introduced: January 31, 2018

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-24-31 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-24 entitled "Lighting
2 Equipment and Reflectors" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-24-31. Flashing lights -- Forward viewing or rotary beam lights.**

4 (a) Flashing lights are prohibited, except on an authorized emergency vehicle, school bus,
5 snow removal equipment, or on any vehicle as a means for indicating a right or left turn.
6 However, the requirements of § 31-24-33 shall be deemed to be satisfied if the vehicle is
7 equipped with lamps at the front mounted at the same level, displaying simultaneously flashing
8 white or amber lights, and at the rear mounted at the same level, and displaying simultaneously
9 flashing red lights, all of which lights shall be visible from a distance of not less than five
10 hundred feet (500').

11 (b) Forward viewing or rotating beam lights may be installed on and shall be restricted to
12 the following categories of vehicles, and these lights shall be of color designated:

13 (1) Emergency response vehicles of any fire, rescue, or ambulance department, fire
14 chiefs, assistant fire chiefs, deputy chiefs, captains; any privately owned vehicle of any authorized
15 volunteer member of a fire, rescue, or ambulance department; emergency management agency
16 directors, assistant directors, assistant medical examiners and/or forensic pathologists of the
17 office of state medical examiners; rescue vehicles, emergency response vehicles of the
18 department of environmental management and the division of state fire marshal; school buses;
19 hospital emergency response vehicles; and two (2) American Red Cross disaster vehicles: Red,

1 white and/or alternating flashing white;

2 (2) Wrecker trucks, service station trucks, state and town safety and maintenance
3 vehicles; snowplows and tractors; light company trucks, telephone company trucks, water
4 company trucks, oil company trucks, and other utilities' trucks; vehicles of television, radio and
5 press photographers; [newspaper motor route carriers](#); rural mail carriers; all motor-propelled
6 vehicles owned by the Northern Rhode Island REACT (radio emergency associated citizens
7 team); all motor-propelled vehicles owned by or under contract to the Rhode Island department of
8 transportation when on official state business; and vehicles marking the beginning and end of
9 funeral processions: Amber, provided, however, that wrecker and transportation vehicles operated
10 pursuant to a public utilities commission license, and roadside assistance vehicles of any type
11 operated for that purpose by the American Automobile Association shall be permitted to use
12 flashing amber lights at the front and rear of the vehicle, to be activated only in the course of
13 providing assistance to or transportation for a disabled vehicle. A fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25)
14 shall be charged for the issuance of a flashing lights permit to every vehicle identified in this
15 subsection, with the exception of flashing lights permits issued to state, town or fire district safety
16 and maintenance vehicles, which shall not be charged a fee.

17 (3) Police units, state and local: Center rotating beam lights: Blue or red; Outboard
18 mounted lights: Blue or red.

19 (4) Violations of this section are subject to fines enumerated in § 31-41.1-4.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2019.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would permit newspaper motor route carriers to have installed upon their
2 vehicles forward viewing or rotating amber beam lights.

3 This act would take effect on January 1, 2019.

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