

1 HB451
2 217024-3
3 By Representative Isbell
4 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security
5 First Read: 03-MAR-22

SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, authorized emergency vehicles are required to be equipped with colored lights. Only vehicles used by law enforcement officers may exhibit blue lights.

This bill would authorize vehicles used by elected or appointed district attorneys to exhibit blue lights, but only for identification purposes.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to authorized emergency vehicles; to provide for the use of emergency lights by an elected or appointed district attorney.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 32-5A-115, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§32-5A-115.

1 "(a) Upon the immediate approach of an authorized
2 emergency vehicle equipped with at least one lighted lamp and
3 audible signal as is required by law, the driver of every
4 other vehicle shall yield the right-of-way and shall
5 immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as close as
6 possible to, the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway clear
7 of any intersection and shall stop and remain in ~~such~~ that
8 position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed,
9 except when otherwise directed by a police officer.

10 "(b) This section shall not operate to relieve the
11 driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to
12 drive with regard for the safety of all persons using the
13 highways.

14 "(c) Authorized emergency vehicles shall be equipped
15 with at least one lighted lamp exhibiting a colored light, as
16 ~~hereinafter~~ provided in this subsection, that is visible under
17 normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of 500 feet to
18 the front of ~~such~~ the vehicle, and shall be equipped with a
19 siren, exhaust whistle, or bell capable of giving an audible
20 signal. The color of the lighted lamp exhibited by police
21 vehicles may be red or blue and the color of the lighted lamp
22 exhibited by the fire department and other authorized
23 emergency vehicles, including ambulances, shall be red. ~~No~~
24 Except as provided under subsection (d), no vehicle other than
25 a police vehicle ~~will~~ may use a blue light. An amber or yellow
26 light may be installed on any vehicle or class of vehicles
27 designated by the ~~Director of Public Safety~~ Secretary of the

1 Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency, but ~~such~~ the light shall
2 serve as a warning or caution light only, and shall not cause
3 other vehicles to yield the right-of-way. This provision shall
4 not operate to relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle from
5 the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all
6 persons using the highway nor shall it protect the driver of
7 any ~~such~~ vehicle from the consequences of an arbitrary
8 exercise of ~~such~~ the right-of-way.

9 "(d) An elected or appointed district attorney may
10 use blue lights for identification purposes."

11 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
12 first day of the third month following its passage and
13 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.