

1 AN ACT in relation to vehicles.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by  
5 changing Section 12-215 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/12-215) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 12-215)

7 Sec. 12-215. Oscillating, rotating or flashing lights on  
8 motor vehicles. Except as otherwise provided in this Code:

9 (a) The use of red or white oscillating, rotating or  
10 flashing lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited  
11 except on:

12 1. Law enforcement vehicles of State, Federal or  
13 local authorities;

14 2. A vehicle operated by a police officer or county  
15 coroner and designated or authorized by local  
16 authorities, in writing, as a law enforcement vehicle;  
17 however, such designation or authorization must be  
18 carried in the vehicle;

19 3. Vehicles of local fire departments and State or  
20 federal firefighting vehicles;

21 4. Vehicles which are designed and used exclusively  
22 as ambulances or rescue vehicles; furthermore, such  
23 lights shall not be lighted except when responding to an  
24 emergency call for and while actually conveying the sick  
25 or injured;

26 5. Tow trucks licensed in a state that requires  
27 such lights; furthermore, such lights shall not be  
28 lighted on any such tow truck while the tow truck is  
29 operating in the State of Illinois; and

30 6. Vehicles of the Illinois Emergency Management  
31 Agency, and vehicles of the Department of Nuclear Safety.

1 (b) The use of amber oscillating, rotating or flashing  
2 lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited except  
3 on:

4 1. Second division vehicles designed and used for  
5 towing or hoisting vehicles; furthermore, such lights  
6 shall not be lighted except as required in this paragraph  
7 1; such lights shall be lighted when such vehicles are  
8 actually being used at the scene of an accident or  
9 disablement; if the towing vehicle is equipped with a  
10 flat bed that supports all wheels of the vehicle being  
11 transported, the lights shall not be lighted while the  
12 vehicle is engaged in towing on a highway; if the towing  
13 vehicle is not equipped with a flat bed that supports all  
14 wheels of a vehicle being transported, the lights shall  
15 be lighted while the towing vehicle is engaged in towing  
16 on a highway during all times when the use of headlights  
17 is required under Section 12-201 of this Code;

18 2. Motor vehicles or equipment of the State of  
19 Illinois, local authorities and contractors; furthermore,  
20 such lights shall not be lighted except while such  
21 vehicles are engaged in maintenance or construction  
22 operations within the limits of construction projects;

23 3. Vehicles or equipment used by engineering or  
24 survey crews; furthermore, such lights shall not be  
25 lighted except while such vehicles are actually engaged  
26 in work on a highway;

27 4. Vehicles of public utilities, municipalities, or  
28 other construction, maintenance or automotive service  
29 vehicles except that such lights shall be lighted only as  
30 a means for indicating the presence of a vehicular  
31 traffic hazard requiring unusual care in approaching,  
32 overtaking or passing while such vehicles are engaged in  
33 maintenance, service or construction on a highway;

34 5. Oversized vehicle or load; however, such lights

1 shall only be lighted when moving under permit issued by  
2 the Department under Section 15-301 of this Code;

3 6. The front and rear of motorized equipment owned  
4 and operated by the State of Illinois or any political  
5 subdivision thereof, which is designed and used for  
6 removal of snow and ice from highways;

7 7. Fleet safety vehicles registered in another  
8 state, furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted  
9 except as provided for in Section 12-212 of this Code;

10 8. Such other vehicles as may be authorized by  
11 local authorities;

12 9. Law enforcement vehicles of State or local  
13 authorities when used in combination with red  
14 oscillating, rotating or flashing lights;

15 10. Vehicles used for collecting or delivering mail  
16 for the United States Postal Service provided that such  
17 lights shall not be lighted except when such vehicles are  
18 actually being used for such purposes;

19 11. Any vehicle displaying a slow-moving vehicle  
20 emblem as provided in Section 12-205.1;

21 12. All trucks equipped with self-compactors or  
22 roll-off hoists and roll-on containers for garbage or  
23 refuse hauling. Such lights shall not be lighted except  
24 when such vehicles are actually being used for such  
25 purposes;

26 13. Vehicles used by a security company, alarm  
27 responder, or control agency, if the security company,  
28 alarm responder, or control agency is bound by a contract  
29 with a federal, State, or local government entity to use  
30 the lights; and

31 14. Security vehicles of the Department of Human  
32 Services; however, the lights shall not be lighted except  
33 when being used for security related purposes under the  
34 direction of the superintendent of the facility where the

1 vehicle is located.

2 (c) The use of blue oscillating, rotating or flashing  
3 lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited except  
4 on:

5 1. Rescue squad vehicles not owned by a fire  
6 department and vehicles owned or fully operated by a:

7 voluntary firefighter;

8 paid firefighter;

9 part-paid firefighter;

10 call firefighter;

11 member of the board of trustees of a fire  
12 protection district;

13 paid or unpaid member of a rescue squad; or

14 paid or unpaid member of a voluntary ambulance  
15 unit.

16 However, such lights are not to be lighted except  
17 when responding to a bona fide emergency.

18 2. Police department vehicles in cities having a  
19 population of 500,000 or more inhabitants.

20 3. Law enforcement vehicles of State or local  
21 authorities when used in combination with red  
22 oscillating, rotating or flashing lights.

23 4. Vehicles of local fire departments and State or  
24 federal firefighting vehicles when used in combination  
25 with red oscillating, rotating or flashing lights.

26 5. Vehicles which are designed and used exclusively  
27 as ambulances or rescue vehicles when used in combination  
28 with red oscillating, rotating or flashing lights;  
29 furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted except when  
30 responding to an emergency call.

31 6. Vehicles that are equipped and used exclusively  
32 as organ transport vehicles when used in combination with  
33 red oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights;  
34 furthermore, these lights shall only be lighted when the

1 transportation is declared an emergency by a member of  
2 the transplant team or a representative of the organ  
3 procurement organization.

4 7. Vehicles of the Illinois Emergency Management  
5 Agency and vehicles of the Department of Nuclear Safety,  
6 when used in combination with red oscillating, rotating,  
7 or flashing lights.

8 (c-1) In addition to the blue oscillating, rotating, or  
9 flashing lights permitted under subsection (c), and  
10 notwithstanding subsection (a), a vehicle operated by a  
11 voluntary firefighter or a paid or unpaid member of a rescue  
12 squad may be equipped with flashing white headlights and blue  
13 grill lights, which may be used only in responding to an  
14 emergency call.

15 (d) The use of a combination of amber and white  
16 oscillating, rotating or flashing lights, whether lighted or  
17 unlighted, is prohibited, except motor vehicles or equipment  
18 of the State of Illinois, local authorities and contractors  
19 may be so equipped; furthermore, such lights shall not be  
20 lighted except while such vehicles are engaged in highway  
21 maintenance or construction operations within the limits of  
22 highway construction projects.

23 (e) All oscillating, rotating or flashing lights  
24 referred to in this Section shall be of sufficient intensity,  
25 when illuminated, to be visible at 500 feet in normal  
26 sunlight.

27 (f) Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a  
28 manufacturer of oscillating, rotating or flashing lights or  
29 his representative from temporarily mounting such lights on a  
30 vehicle for demonstration purposes only.

31 (g) Any person violating the provisions of subsections  
32 (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this Section who without lawful  
33 authority stops or detains or attempts to stop or detain  
34 another person shall be guilty of a Class 4 felony.

1           (h) Except as provided in subsection (g) above, any  
2 person violating the provisions of subsections (a) or (c) of  
3 this Section shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

4           (Source: P.A. 91-357, eff. 7-29-99; 92-138, eff. 7-24-01;  
5 92-407, eff. 8-17-01; revised 9-12-01)