

1 AN ACT concerning 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 and-

2 7. Vehicles operated by a local or county emergency  
3 management services agency as defined in the Illinois  
4 Emergency Management Agency Act.

5 (b) The use of amber oscillating, rotating or flashing  
6 lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited except  
7 on:

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

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

27 3. Vehicles or equipment used by engineering or  
28 survey crews; furthermore, such lights shall not be  
29 lighted except while such vehicles are actually engaged  
30 in work on a highway;

31 4. Vehicles of public utilities, municipalities, or  
32 other construction, maintenance or automotive service  
33 vehicles except that such lights shall be lighted only as  
34 a means for indicating the presence of a vehicular

1 traffic hazard requiring unusual care in approaching,  
2 overtaking or passing while such vehicles are engaged in  
3 maintenance, service or construction on a highway;

4 5. Oversized vehicle or load; however, such lights  
5 shall only be lighted when moving under permit issued by  
6 the Department under Section 15-301 of this Code;

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

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

14 8. Such other vehicles as may be authorized by  
15 local authorities;

16 9. Law enforcement vehicles of State or local  
17 authorities when used in combination with red  
18 oscillating, rotating or flashing lights;

19 10. Vehicles used for collecting or delivering mail  
20 for the United States Postal Service provided that such  
21 lights shall not be lighted except when such vehicles are  
22 actually being used for such purposes;

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

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

30 13. Vehicles used by a security company, alarm  
31 responder, or control agency, if the security company,  
32 alarm responder, or control agency is bound by a contract  
33 with a federal, State, or local government entity to use  
34 the lights; and

1           14. Security vehicles of the Department of Human  
 2 Services; however, the lights shall not be lighted except  
 3 when being used for security related purposes under the  
 4 direction of the superintendent of the facility where the  
 5 vehicle is located.

6           (c) The use of blue oscillating, rotating or flashing  
 7 lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited except  
 8 on:

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

- 11                   voluntary firefighter;
- 12                   paid firefighter;
- 13                   part-paid firefighter;
- 14                   call firefighter;

15                   member of the board of trustees of a fire  
 16 protection district;

17                   paid or unpaid member of a rescue squad; or  
 18                   paid or unpaid member of a voluntary ambulance  
 19 unit; or

20                   paid or unpaid members of a local or county  
 21 emergency management services agency as defined in  
 22 the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act,  
 23 designated or authorized by local authorities, in  
 24 writing, and carrying that designation or  
 25 authorization in the vehicle.

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

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

30           3. Law enforcement vehicles of State or local  
 31 authorities when used in combination with red  
 32 oscillating, rotating or flashing lights.

33           4. Vehicles of local fire departments and State or  
 34 federal firefighting vehicles when used in combination

1 with red oscillating, rotating or flashing lights.

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

7 6. Vehicles that are equipped and used exclusively  
8 as organ transport vehicles when used in combination with  
9 red oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights;  
10 furthermore, these lights shall only be lighted when the  
11 transportation is declared an emergency by a member of  
12 the transplant team or a representative of the organ  
13 procurement organization.

14 7. Vehicles of the Illinois Emergency Management  
15 Agency and vehicles of the Department of Nuclear Safety,  
16 when used in combination with red oscillating, rotating,  
17 or flashing lights.

18 8. Vehicles operated by a local or county emergency  
19 management services agency as defined in the Illinois  
20 Emergency Management Agency Act, when used in combination  
21 with red oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights.

22 (c-1) In addition to the blue oscillating, rotating, or  
23 flashing lights permitted under subsection (c), and  
24 notwithstanding subsection (a), a vehicle operated by a  
25 voluntary firefighter may be equipped with flashing white  
26 headlights and blue grill lights, which may be used only in  
27 responding to an emergency call.

28 (c-2) In addition to the blue oscillating, rotating, or  
29 flashing lights permitted under subsection (c), and  
30 notwithstanding subsection (a), a vehicle operated by a paid  
31 or unpaid member of a local or county emergency management  
32 services agency as defined in the Illinois Emergency  
33 Management Agency Act, may be equipped with white  
34 oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights to be used in

1 combination with blue oscillating, rotating, or flashing  
2 lights, if authorization by local authorities is in writing  
3 and carried in the vehicle.

4 (d) The use of a combination of amber and white  
5 oscillating, rotating or flashing lights, whether lighted or  
6 unlighted, is prohibited, except motor vehicles or equipment  
7 of the State of Illinois, local authorities and contractors  
8 may be so equipped; furthermore, such lights shall not be  
9 lighted except while such vehicles are engaged in highway  
10 maintenance or construction operations within the limits of  
11 highway construction projects.

12 (e) All oscillating, rotating or flashing lights  
13 referred to in this Section shall be of sufficient intensity,  
14 when illuminated, to be visible at 500 feet in normal  
15 sunlight.

16 (f) Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a  
17 manufacturer of oscillating, rotating or flashing lights or  
18 his representative from temporarily mounting such lights on a  
19 vehicle for demonstration purposes only.

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

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

27 (Source: P.A. 91-357, eff. 7-29-99; 92-138, eff. 7-24-01;  
28 92-407, eff. 8-17-01; revised 9-12-01)

29 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
30 becoming law.