

1 AN ACT relating to vehicle lights.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➡ Section 1. KRS 189.920 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) All fire department, rescue squad, or publicly owned emergency management  
5 agency emergency vehicles and all ambulances shall be equipped with one (1) or  
6 more flashing, rotating, or oscillating red lights, visible under normal atmospheric  
7 conditions from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the front of the vehicle, and  
8 a siren, whistle, or bell, capable of emitting a sound audible under normal  
9 conditions from a distance of not less than five hundred (500) feet. This equipment  
10 shall be in addition to any other equipment required by the motor vehicle laws.

11 (2) All state, county, or municipal police vehicles and all sheriffs' vehicles used as  
12 emergency vehicles shall be equipped with one (1) or more flashing, rotating, or  
13 oscillating blue lights, visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance  
14 of five hundred (500) feet to the front of the vehicle, and a siren, whistle, or bell,  
15 capable of emitting a sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not  
16 less than five hundred (500) feet. This equipment shall be in addition to any other  
17 equipment required by the motor vehicle laws.

18 (3) By ordinance, the governing body of any city or county may direct that the police or  
19 sheriffs' vehicles in that jurisdiction be equipped with a combination of red and blue  
20 flashing, rotating, or oscillating lights.

21 (4) (a) All public safety vehicles shall be equipped with one (1) or more flashing,  
22 rotating, or oscillating yellow lights, visible under normal atmospheric  
23 conditions from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the front of the  
24 vehicle. Yellow flashing, rotating, or oscillating lights may also be used by  
25 vehicles operated by mail carriers while on duty, funeral escort vehicles, and  
26 church buses.

27 **(b) In addition to the lights required in paragraph (a) of this subsection, a**

wrecker may be equipped with one (1) or more flashing, rotating, or oscillating blue lights, visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the rear of the vehicle. The operator of a wrecker may use the blue lights allowed under this paragraph only when the wrecker is stationary and while removing a vehicle or debris from a highway. The operator of a wrecker shall not use blue lights when towing a vehicle on a highway.

(5) All Department of Corrections vehicles used as emergency vehicles shall be equipped with one (1) or more flashing, rotating, or oscillating blue lights, visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the front of the vehicle. The Department of Corrections vehicles shall not be equipped with or use a siren, whistle, or bell. The equipment prescribed by this subsection shall be in addition to any other equipment required by motor vehicle laws.

(6) (a) If authorized by the legislative body of a county, urban-county government, charter county government, consolidated local government, or unified local government:

1. All publicly owned county jail and regional jail vehicles used as emergency vehicles may be equipped with the one (1) or more flashing, rotating, or oscillating blue lights, visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the front of the vehicle; and
2. An elected jailer or the chief administrator of a county or regional jail not managed by an elected jailer may equip one (1) personally owned vehicle with one (1) or more flashing, rotating, or oscillating blue lights, visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the front of the vehicle.

- 1 (b) Publicly owned county jail or regional jail vehicles shall not be equipped with  
2 or use a siren, whistle, or bell.
- 3 (c) The equipment prescribed by this subsection shall be in addition to any other  
4 equipment required by the motor vehicle laws.
- 5 (7) Red flashing lights may be used by school buses.
- 6 (8) No emergency vehicle, public safety vehicle, or any other vehicle covered by KRS  
7 189.910 to 189.950 shall use any light of any other color than those specified by  
8 KRS 189.910 to 189.950. Sirens, whistles, and bells may not be used by vehicles  
9 other than those specified by KRS 189.910 to 189.950, except that any vehicle may  
10 be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it cannot be  
11 used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal.
- 12 (9) Vehicles used as command posts at incidents may be equipped with and use when  
13 on scene, a green rotating, oscillating, or flashing light. This light shall be in  
14 addition to the lights and sirens required in this section.
- 15 (10) A personal vehicle used by a paid or volunteer firefighter, ambulance personnel, or  
16 emergency services director who is responding to an emergency shall display the  
17 lights required in subsection (1) of this section.
- 18 (11) An elected coroner may equip a publicly or privately owned motor vehicle, or both,  
19 with flashing, rotating, or oscillating red and blue lights and a siren meeting the  
20 requirements of this section solely for the purpose of responding to a report of the  
21 death of a human being subject to the following terms and conditions:
- 22 (a) The coroner makes a written request to the legislative body of the county,  
23 urban-county government, charter county government, consolidated local  
24 government, or unified local government in which the coroner was elected to  
25 equip a publicly or privately owned motor vehicle, or both, with flashing,  
26 rotating, or oscillating red and blue lights and a siren meeting the  
27 requirements of this section, and that request is approved by the legislative

1 body by ordinance or by court order;

2 (b) The coroner may use the lights and siren only while responding to the scene  
3 of the report of a death of a human being and shall not, KRS 189.940 to the  
4 contrary notwithstanding, exceed the posted speed limit; and

5 (c) The permission granted pursuant to this section shall expire upon the coroner  
6 leaving office or the legislative body revoking the authorization.

7 (12) A deputy coroner certified pursuant to KRS Chapter 72 may equip a publicly  
8 owned or privately owned motor vehicle, or both, with flashing, rotating, or  
9 oscillating red and blue lights and a siren meeting the requirements of this section  
10 solely for the purpose of responding to a report of the death of a human being,  
11 subject to the following terms and conditions:

12 (a) The deputy coroner has made a written request to the coroner to equip a  
13 publicly owned or privately owned vehicle with flashing, rotating, or  
14 oscillating red and blue lights meeting the requirements of this section and the  
15 coroner has approved the request in writing;

16 (b) The coroner makes a written request to the legislative body of the county,  
17 urban-county government, charter county government, consolidated local  
18 government, or unified local government in which the coroner is elected to  
19 permit the deputy coroner to equip a publicly owned motor vehicle or  
20 privately owned motor vehicle, or both, and that request has been approved by  
21 the legislative body by ordinance or by court order;

22 (c) The deputy coroner may use the lights and siren only while responding to the  
23 scene of the report of the death of a human being and shall not, KRS 189.940  
24 to the contrary notwithstanding, exceed the posted speed limit; and

25 (d) The permission granted pursuant to this section shall expire upon the coroner  
26 leaving office or the legislative body revoking the authorization.