

CHAPTER 17

(HB 41)

AN ACT relating to emergency vehicles.

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

➔Section 1. KRS 189.910 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) As used in KRS 189.920 to 189.950, "emergency vehicle" means any vehicle used for emergency purposes by a fire department; any vehicle used for emergency purposes by the State Police, a public police department, Department of Corrections, or sheriff's office; any vehicle used for emergency purposes by a rescue squad; any publicly owned vehicle used for emergency purposes by an emergency management agency; any vehicle used to respond to emergencies or to transport a patient with a critical medical condition if the vehicle is operated by a Cabinet for Health Services-licensed ambulance provider or medical first-response provider; any vehicle commandeered by a police officer; or any motor vehicle with the emergency lights required *or authorized* under KRS 189.920 used by a paid or volunteer fireman, ~~or~~ paid or volunteer ambulance personnel, ~~or~~ a paid or volunteer local emergency management director, *or paid jail personnel* while responding to an emergency or to a location where an emergency vehicle is on emergency call.
- (2) As used in KRS 189.920 to 189.950, "public safety vehicle" means public utility repair vehicle; wreckers; state, county, or municipal service vehicles and equipment; highway equipment which performs work that requires stopping and standing or moving at slow speeds within the traveled portions of highways; and vehicles which are escorting wide-load or slow-moving trailers or trucks.

➔Section 2. KRS 189.920 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) All fire department, rescue squad, or publicly owned emergency management agency emergency vehicles and all ambulances shall be equipped with one (1) or more flashing, rotating, or oscillating red lights, visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the front of the vehicle, and a siren, whistle, or bell, capable of emitting a sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than five hundred (500) feet. This equipment shall be in addition to any other equipment required by the motor vehicle laws.
- (2) All state, county, or municipal police vehicles and all sheriffs' 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, and a siren, whistle, or bell, capable of emitting a sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than five hundred (500) feet. This equipment shall be in addition to any other equipment required by the motor vehicle laws.
- (3) By ordinance, the governing body of any city or county may direct that the police or sheriffs' vehicles in that jurisdiction be equipped with a combination of red and blue flashing, rotating, or oscillating lights.
- (4) All public safety vehicles shall be equipped with one (1) or more flashing, rotating, or oscillating yellow lights, visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the front of the vehicle. Yellow flashing, rotating, or oscillating lights may also be used by vehicles operated by mail carriers while on duty, funeral escort vehicles, and church buses.
- (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, charter county, 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 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.

- (b) *Publicly owned county jail or regional jail vehicles shall not be equipped with or use a siren, whistle, or bell.*
 - (c) *The equipment prescribed by this subsection shall be in addition to any other equipment required by the motor vehicle laws.*
- (7) Red flashing lights may be used by school buses.
- ~~(8)(7)~~ No emergency vehicle, public safety vehicle, or any other vehicle covered by KRS 189.910 to 189.950 shall use any light of any other color than those specified by KRS 189.910 to 189.950. Sirens, whistles, and bells may not be used by vehicles other than those specified by KRS 189.910 to 189.950, except that any vehicle may be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it cannot be used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal.
- ~~(9)(8)~~ Vehicles used as command posts at incidents may be equipped with and use when on scene, a green rotating, oscillating, or flashing light. This light shall be in addition to the lights and sirens required in this section.
- ~~(10)(9)~~ A personal vehicle used by a paid or volunteer firefighter, ambulance personnel, or emergency services director who is responding to an emergency shall display the lights required in subsection (1) of this section.

Signed by Governor March 16, 2011.