

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**

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

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

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

16 1. All publicly owned county jail and regional jail vehicles used as
17 emergency vehicles may be equipped with the one (1) or more flashing,
18 rotating, or oscillating blue lights, visible under normal atmospheric
19 conditions from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the front of the
20 vehicle; and

21 2. An elected jailer or the chief administrator of a county or regional jail
22 not managed by an elected jailer may equip one (1) personally owned
23 vehicle with one (1) or more flashing, rotating, or oscillating blue lights,
24 visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five
25 hundred (500) feet to the front of the vehicle.

26 (b) Publicly owned county jail or regional jail vehicles shall not be equipped with
27 or use a siren, whistle, or bell.

- 1 (c) The equipment prescribed by this subsection shall be in addition to any other
2 equipment required by the motor vehicle laws.
- 3 (7) Red flashing lights may be used by school buses.
- 4 (8) No emergency vehicle, public safety vehicle, or any other vehicle covered by KRS
5 189.910 to 189.950 shall use any light of any other color than those specified by
6 KRS 189.910 to 189.950. Sirens, whistles, and bells may not be used by vehicles
7 other than those specified by KRS 189.910 to 189.950, except that any vehicle may
8 be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it cannot be
9 used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal.
- 10 (9) Vehicles used as command posts at incidents may be equipped with and use when
11 on scene, a green rotating, oscillating, or flashing light. This light shall be in
12 addition to the lights and sirens required in this section.
- 13 (10) A personal vehicle used by a paid or volunteer firefighter, ambulance personnel, or
14 emergency services director who is responding to an emergency shall display the
15 lights required in subsection (1) of this section.
- 16 (11) An elected coroner may equip a publicly or privately owned motor vehicle, or both,
17 with flashing, rotating, or oscillating red and blue lights and a siren meeting the
18 requirements of this section solely for the purpose of responding to a report of the
19 death of a human being subject to the following terms and conditions:
- 20 (a) The coroner makes a written request to the legislative body of the county,
21 urban-county, charter county, consolidated local government, or unified local
22 government in which the coroner was elected to equip a publicly or privately
23 owned motor vehicle, or both, with flashing, rotating, or oscillating red and
24 blue lights and a siren meeting the requirements of this section, and that
25 request is approved by the legislative body by ordinance or by court order;
- 26 (b) The coroner may use the lights and siren only while responding to the scene
27 of the report of a death of a human being and shall not, KRS 189.940 to the

1 contrary notwithstanding, exceed the posted speed limit; and

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

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

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

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

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

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