



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6285**

*January Session, 2001*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF FLASHING WHITE HEAD LAMPS  
BY FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL PERSONNEL.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Subsection (a) of section 14-96p of the general statutes is repealed  
2 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) (1) No person shall display upon any motor vehicle any light  
4 visible from the front thereof other than white, yellow or amber, or any  
5 light other than red, yellow, amber or white visible from the rear  
6 thereof, except a light used with any school bus, without a written  
7 permit from the commissioner. If the Department of Transportation  
8 obtains from the commissioner such a permit covering more than one  
9 motor vehicle operated by the department, it may display the lights  
10 allowed under the permit on each such vehicle without placing a copy  
11 of the permit in each vehicle.

12 (2) Any vehicle accommodating fifteen or [less] fewer handicapped  
13 students may use a flashing red light or lights during the time such  
14 vehicle is stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging such  
15 handicapped students, any motor bus may carry a purple light or  
16 lights, any interstate public service vehicle may carry a green light or  
17 lights, any taxicab may carry a lunar white light or lights, and any  
18 interstate commercial motor vehicle may display green identification  
19 lights, in front thereof, as the commissioner may permit.

20       (3) A vehicle being operated by the chief executive officer of an  
21 emergency medical service organization, as defined in section 19a-175,  
22 an ambulance, as defined in section 19a-175, [or] a vehicle being  
23 operated by a local fire marshal or a local director of emergency  
24 management may use a flashing red light or lights or flashing white  
25 head lamps and a flashing amber light while on the way to the scene of  
26 an emergency, except that an ambulance may use flashing lights of  
27 other colors specified by federal requirements for the manufacture of  
28 such vehicle. The chief executive officer of each such organization shall  
29 provide annually during the month of January, on forms provided by  
30 the commissioner, such officer's name and address and the registration  
31 number on the number plate or plates of the vehicle on which the  
32 authorized red light is or white head lamps and amber light are to be  
33 used. A vehicle being operated by a member of a volunteer fire  
34 department or company or a volunteer emergency medical technician  
35 may use flashing white head lamps, provided such member or  
36 emergency medical technician is on the way to the scene of a fire or  
37 medical emergency and has received written authorization from the  
38 chief law enforcement officer of the municipality to use such head  
39 lamps. Such head lamps shall only be used within the municipality  
40 granting such authorization. Such authorization may be revoked for  
41 use of such head lamps in violation of this subdivision.

42       (4) Flashing or revolving white lights may not be displayed upon a  
43 motor vehicle except [(1)] (A) on fire emergency apparatus, [(2)] (B) on  
44 motor vehicles of paid and volunteer fire chiefs and their first and  
45 second deputies or their first and second assistants should there be no  
46 deputies, [(3)] (C) as a means of indicating a right or left turn, [(4)] (D)  
47 in conjunction with flashing red lights on an ambulance responding to  
48 an emergency call, or [(5)] (E) on the top rear of any school bus. For the  
49 purpose of this subsection, the term "handicapped students" means  
50 mentally retarded, hard of hearing, deaf, speech-impaired, visually  
51 handicapped, emotionally disturbed, orthopedically impaired or other  
52 health-impaired students, or students with specific learning  
53 disabilities, who by reason thereof, require special education and

54 related services; and the term "flashing white lights" shall not include  
55 the simultaneous flashing of head lamps.

**PS**          *JOINT FAVORABLE SUBST. C/R*                      TRA

**TRA**          *JOINT FAVORABLE*

**PH**          *JOINT FAVORABLE*