

2012 -- S 2145

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - SNOW PLOWS AND SNOW
REMOVAL EQUIPMENT

Introduced By: Senator Roger Picard

Date Introduced: January 18, 2012

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 31-24-31 of the General Laws in Chapter 31-24 entitled "Lighting
2 Equipment and Reflectors" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **31-24-31. Flashing lights -- Forward viewing or rotary beam lights. --** (a) Flashing
4 lights are prohibited, except on an authorized emergency vehicle, school bus, snow removal
5 equipment, or on any vehicle as a means for indicating a right or left turn. However, the
6 requirements of section 31-24-33 shall be deemed to be satisfied if the vehicle is equipped with
7 lamps at the front mounted at the same level, displaying simultaneously flashing white or amber
8 lights, and at the rear mounted at the same level, and displaying simultaneously flashing red
9 lights, all of which lights shall be visible from a distance of not less than five hundred feet (500').

10 (b) Forward viewing or rotating beam lights may be installed on and shall be restricted to
11 the following categories of vehicles, and these lights shall be of color designated:

12 (1) Emergency response vehicles of any fire, rescue, or ambulance department, fire
13 chiefs, assistant fire chiefs, deputy chiefs, captains; any privately owned vehicle of any authorized
14 volunteer member of a fire, rescue, or ambulance department; emergency management agency
15 directors, assistant directors, assistant medical examiners and/or forensic pathologists of the
16 office of state medical examiners; rescue vehicles, emergency response vehicles of the
17 department of environmental management and the division of state fire marshal; school buses;
18 hospital emergency response vehicles; and two (2) American Red Cross disaster vehicles: Red,

1 white and/or alternating flashing white;

2 (2) Wrecker trucks, service station trucks, state and town safety and maintenance
3 vehicles; snowplows, [snow removal equipment](#) and tractors; light company trucks, telephone
4 company trucks, water company trucks, oil company trucks, and other utilities' trucks; vehicles of
5 television, radio and press photographers; rural mail carriers; all motor-propelled vehicles owned
6 by the Northern Rhode Island REACT (radio emergency associated citizens team); all motor-
7 propelled vehicles owned by or under contract to the Rhode Island department of transportation
8 when on official state business; and vehicles marking the beginning and end of funeral
9 processions: Amber, provided, however, that wrecker and transportation vehicles operated
10 pursuant to a public utilities commission license, and roadside assistance vehicles of any type
11 operated for that purpose by the American Automobile Association shall be permitted to use
12 flashing amber lights at the front and rear of the vehicle, to be activated only in the course of
13 providing assistance to or transportation for a disabled vehicle. A fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25)
14 shall be charged for the issuance of a flashing lights permit to every vehicle identified in this
15 subsection, with the exception of flashing lights permits issued to state, town or fire district safety
16 and maintenance vehicles, which shall not be charged a fee.

17 (3) Police units, state and local: Center rotating beam lights: Blue or red; Outboard
18 mounted lights: Blue or red.

19 [\(4\) The use of the flashing lights authorized for snow plows and snow removal equipment](#)
20 [by subdivision \(b\)\(2\) hereof shall be mandatory, provided that vehicles having other uses besides](#)
21 [snow removal shall be required to display such flashing lights, which may be magnetically](#)
22 [mounted, only when engaged in snow removal, and provided further, that this requirement shall](#)
23 [not apply to snowblowers.](#)

24 ~~(4)~~(c) Violations of this section are subject to fines enumerated in section 31-41.1-4.

25 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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- 1 This act would require that use of flashing lights on snow plows and snow removal
- 2 equipment.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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