

39:3-54.15 et seq.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 39:3-54.15 et. seq.

(Volunteer firemen--chiefs and assistant chiefs--permit red lights on vehicles)

LAWS OF: 1985

CHAPTER: 171

Bill No: S682

Sponsor(s): Saxton

Date Introduced: Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly: Law, Public Safety and Defense

Senate: Law, Public Safety and Defense

Amended during passage: No

Date of Passage: Assembly: May 6, 1985

Senate: May 14, 1984

Date of Approval: May 31, 1985

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee statement: Assembly Yes

Senate Yes

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: No

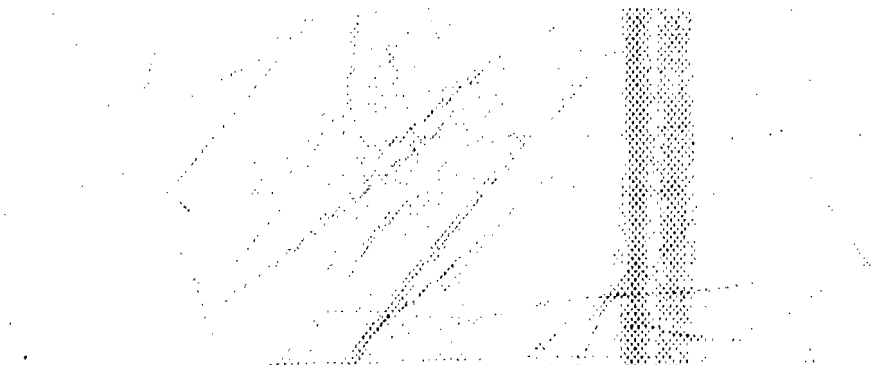
Message on Signing: No

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Reports: No

Hearings: No

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SENATE, No. 682

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1984 SESSION

By Senator SAXTON

AN ACT relating to red emergency warning lights and sirens for chiefs and first assistant chiefs of volunteer fire companies and supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. An active chief or first assistant chief of a volunteer fire
2 company recognized by and rendering service in any municipality
3 may display on a motor vehicle owned by him and registered in
4 his name a red emergency warning light or lights, a siren, or both,
5 as prescribed in this act. The size and type of lights and siren, and
6 the location of their controls, shall be determined by the Director
7 of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

1 2. All red emergency lights shall be mounted on the exterior
2 of the motor vehicle. No more than two red emergency warning
3 lights shall be installed on a vehicle. If one light is used it shall
4 be installed in the center of the roof of the vehicle, or on the left
5 windshield column in a position where a spotlight is normally
6 located. If two lights are used they may be placed on the wind-
7 shield columns on each side of the vehicle where spotlights are
8 normally mounted, or on either side of the roof at the front of the
9 vehicle directly back of the top of the windshield. Under no circum-
10 stances may one light be placed on the roof and one on a wind-
11 shield column in the spotlight position. They shall be operated
12 only while the vehicle is being used by the registered owner chief
13 or first assistant chief in answering a fire or emergency call.

1 3. All sirens shall be mounted under the hood of the motor vehicle
2 and shall be operated only while the vehicle is being used by the

3 registered owner chief or first assistant chief in answering a fire or
4 emergency call.

1 4. The Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall prepare
2 suitable identification cards bearing the signature of the director
3 which, upon the request of the mayor or chief executive officer of
4 any municipality recognizing and being served by a volunteer fire
5 company on a form and in a a manner prescribed by the director,
6 shall be forwarded to the mayor or chief executive officer, to be
7 countersigned and issued by the mayor or chief executive officer to
8 the chief or first assistant chief of the volunteer fire company.
9 Identification cards issued pursuant to this section shall be con-
10 sidered permits to display and operate red emergency warning
11 lights, sirens, or both, as provided for in this act, and no lights or
12 sirens shall be mounted prior to the issuance of the identification
13 cards. Each chief or first assistant chief of a volunteer fire company
14 shall carry the identification card while red emergency warning
15 lights, sirens, or both, are displayed on his vehicles.

1 5. This act shall not grant to any chief or first assistant chief
2 of a volunteer fire company any privileges or exemptions denied to
3 the drivers of other vehicles, and persons displaying red emergency
4 warning lights, sirens, or both, shall drive with due regard for the
5 safety of all persons and shall obey the traffic laws of this State; but
6 drivers of nonemergency vehicles upon any highway shall yield the
7 right of way to the vehicle of any chief or first assistant chief of a
8 volunteer fire company displaying red emergency warning lights,
9 sirens, or both, in the same manner as is provided for authorized
10 emergency vehicles pursuant to R. S. 39:4-92.

1 6. Any person authorized to display red emergency warning
2 lights, sirens, or both, pursuant to this act, who willfully displays
3 or uses the lights or sirens in violation of the provisions of this
4 act, shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$50.00 and his
5 privilege to display the lights or sirens may be suspended or
6 revoked by the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

1 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill allows chiefs and first assistant chiefs of volunteer fire companies to display on a motor vehicle owned by either of them registered in either of their names a red emergency warning light or lights, a siren, or both, as prescribed in the bill. The provisions of this bill would supplement the requirements of subchapter 2 of the New Jersey Administrative Code concerning red emergency lights and sirens.

3 registered owner chief or first assistant chief in answering a fire or
4 emergency call.

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5682(1985)

ASSEMBLY LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND DEFENSE
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 682

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 13, 1984

Senate Bill No. 682 permits a chief and a first assistant chief of a volunteer fire company to have a red emergency warning light or lights, a siren, or both, on a motor vehicle owned or registered by them.

Senate Bill No. 682 contains specifications for mounting the lights and sirens and states that neither the lights nor the sirens are to be used unless the vehicle is being used by the chief or assistant chief to answer a fire or emergency call.

The bill authorizes the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles to determine the size and the type of lights and sirens that can be used and the location of their controls. It also requires the director to prepare identification cards which will authorize chiefs and assistant chiefs to display the lights and sirens. These cards are to be signed by the director and countersigned by the mayor or chief executive officer of the municipality served by the chief or assistant chief.

The bill does not grant any special privileges or exemptions to chiefs or assistant chiefs using the lights or sirens; however, it does require other drivers to yield the right of way to the vehicle of a chief or assistant chief displaying the lights.

SENATE LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND DEFENSE
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 682

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 25, 1984

Senate Bill No. 682 would permit both chiefs and first assistant chiefs of volunteer fire companies to display a red emergency warning light or lights, a siren, or both on a motor vehicle owned and registered by them.

Senate Bill No. 682 contains specifications for mounting the lights and sirens and states that neither the lights nor the sirens shall be operated unless the vehicle is being used by the chief or first assistant chief to answer a fire or emergency call.

The bill authorizes the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles to determine the size and the type of lights and sirens that can be used and the location of their controls. It also requires the director to prepare identification cards which will authorize chiefs and assistant chiefs to display the lights and sirens. These cards would be signed by the director and issued and countersigned by the major or chief executive officer of the municipality served by the chief or first assistant chief.

The bill does not grant any special privileges or exemptions to chiefs or first assistant chiefs using the lights or sirens that are denied to other drivers; however, it does require other drivers to yield the right of way to the vehicle of a chief or first assistant chief displaying the lights, as required by R. S. 39:4-92.

For a violation of the requirements contained in the bill, a penalty of not more than \$50.00 would be imposed. A violator also would lose the privilege to display the lights or siren.

The privileges granted by Senate Bill No. 682 to chiefs and first assistant chiefs of volunteer fire companies are now being granted to them by regulations promulgated by the Division of Motor Vehicles.

BILLS SIGNED
PAGE TWO
MAY 31, 1985

S-682, sponsored by former Senator H. James Saxton, R-Burlington, to permit chiefs and first assistant chiefs of volunteer fire companies to display red emergency warning lights and sirens on their vehicles.

A-593, sponsored by Assemblyman Joseph Bocchini, D-Mercer, to register municipal clerks based on a combination of education, experience and the completion of a State examination.

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