



Tuesday, April 15, 2008

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S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

4842

2007-2008 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

April 23, 2007

Introduced by Sen. LARKIN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to establish a temporary state commission on the use of colored and flashing lights on certain vehicles to examine, evaluate and make recommendations on the use of such lights on authorized emergency vehicles and the personal motor vehicles of volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. A temporary state commission on the use of colored and  
2 flashing lights on certain vehicles is hereby established to examine,  
3 evaluate and make recommendations concerning the use of any variety of  
4 such lights, as generally specified in subdivision 41 of section 375 of  
5 the vehicle and traffic law, on the various types of authorized emergen-  
6 cy vehicles, as defined in section 101 of the vehicle and traffic law,  
7 and on the motor vehicles of volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambu-  
8 lance workers under the circumstances specified in subparagraph a of  
9 paragraph 4 and paragraph 5 of subdivision 41 of section 375 of the  
10 vehicle and traffic law. Such commission shall direct its attention to  
11 at least the following:

12 (a) Evaluate which combination of flashing and colored lighting would  
13 be the optimal lighting system for the motor vehicles owned by volunteer  
14 firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers to be used only while  
15 engaged in emergency operation, as defined by section 114-b of the vehi-  
16 cle and traffic law; and

17 (b) Evaluate which combination of flashing and color lighting would be  
18 the optimal lighting system for authorized emergency vehicles by making  
19 such vehicles readily visible during daylight and dark, and provide for  
20 easy identification of the various types of authorized emergency vehi-  
21 cles.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets { } is old law to be omitted.

LBD11045-02-7

S. 4842

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1 S 2. (a) The temporary state commission on the use of colored and  
2 flashing lights on certain vehicles shall consist of 15 members as  
3 follows:

4 (i) the commissioner of motor vehicles, or his or her designee, who  
5 shall serve as chair of the commission;

6 (ii) the commissioner of transportation, or his or her designee;

7 (iii) the commissioner of health, or his or her designee;

8 (iv) the superintendent of insurance, or his or her designee;

9 (v) a representative of the state emergency management office;

10 (vi) the superintendent of state police, or his or her designee; and

11 (vii) nine appointed members who shall represent a statewide organiza-  
12 tion that represents police officers, a statewide organization that  
13 represents professional firefighters, a statewide organization that  
14 represents volunteer firefighters, a statewide organization that repres-  
15 ents professional emergency medical technicians and a statewide organ-  
16 ization that represents volunteer ambulance workers; and persons with  
17 expertise and knowledge about the visibility and distraction caused by  
18 various types of lights. Such members shall be appointed as follows:

19 (A) three members shall be appointed by the governor;

20 (B) two members shall be appointed by the temporary president of the  
21 senate;

22 (C) two members shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly;

23 (D) one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the  
24 senate; and

25 (E) one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assem-  
26 bly.

27 (b) Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in  
28 the manner provided for original appointments.

29 S 3. The temporary state commission on the use of colored and flashing  
30 lights on certain vehicles may meet within and without the state, shall  
31 hold public hearings and shall have all the powers of a legislative  
32 committee pursuant to the legislative law.

33 S 4. The members of the temporary state commission on the use of  
34 colored and flashing lights on certain vehicles shall receive no compen-  
35 sation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and neces-  
36 sary expenses incurred in their duties pursuant to this act.

37 S 5. The temporary state commission on the use of colored and flashing  
38 lights on certain vehicles shall, on or before March 31, 2008, submit a  
39 report to the governor and the legislature of its findings, conclusions  
40 and recommendations. Such commission shall, as part of such report,  
41 submit such legislative and regulatory proposals as it deems necessary  
42 to implement its recommendations.

43 S 6. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall expire and be  
44 deemed repealed April 1, 2008.

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