

HOUSE BILL No. 1038

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 36-8-12-11.

Synopsis: Blue LED lights on volunteer firefighter vehicles. Authorizes a blue light on a vehicle privately owned by a volunteer firefighter to be a blue light emitting diode (LED).

Effective: July 1, 2016.

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January 5, 2016, read first time and referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs and Public Safety.



Second Regular Session of the 119th General Assembly (2016)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2015 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning local government.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 36-8-12-11 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016]: Sec. 11. (a) Members of
3 volunteer fire departments may display blue lights on their privately
4 owned vehicles while en route to scenes of emergencies or to the fire
5 station in the line of duty subject to the following conditions:
6 (1) A light:
7 (A) must have a light source of at least thirty-five (35) watts;
8 **or**
9 (B) **may be a blue light emitting diode (LED).**
10 (2) All lights must be placed on the:
11 (A) top of the vehicle;
12 (B) dashboard inside a vehicle, shielded to prevent distracting
13 the driver; or
14 (C) front of the vehicle upon the bumper or at bumper level.
15 (3) No more than four (4) blue light assemblies may be displayed
16 on one (1) vehicle, and each blue light assembly must be of the
17 flashing or revolving type.



- 1 (4) A blue light assembly may contain multiple bulbs.
- 2 (5) A blue light may not be a part of the regular head lamps
3 displayed on the vehicles. Alternately flashing head lamps may be
4 used as a supplemental warning device. Strobe lights or flashers
5 may be installed into the light fixtures on the vehicle other than
6 the alternating head lamps. The strobe lights or flashers may be
7 either white or blue, with the exception of red to the rear.
- 8 (b) In order for a volunteer firefighter to display a blue light on a
9 vehicle, the volunteer firefighter must secure a written permit from the
10 chief of the volunteer fire department to use the blue light and must
11 carry the permit at all times when the blue light is displayed.
- 12 (c) A person who is not a member of a volunteer fire department
13 may not display an illuminated blue light on a vehicle.
- 14 (d) A permittee of the owner of a vehicle lawfully equipped with a
15 blue light may operate the vehicle only if the blue light is not
16 illuminated.
- 17 (e) A person who violates subsection (a), (b), (c), or (d) commits a
18 Class C infraction. If the violator is a member of a volunteer fire
19 department, the chief of the department shall discipline the violator
20 under fire department rules and regulations.
- 21 (f) This section does not grant a vehicle displaying blue lights the
22 right-of-way under IC 9-21-8-35 or exemption from traffic rules under
23 IC 9-21-1-8. A driver of a vehicle displaying a blue light shall obey all
24 traffic rules.
- 25 (g) This section shall not be construed to include a vehicle
26 displaying a blue light and driven by a member of a volunteer fire
27 department as an authorized emergency vehicle (as defined in
28 IC 9-13-2-6).

