

1 AN ACT relating to mobile command centers owned by a local government.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 189.910 is amended to read as follows:

- 4 (1) As used in KRS 189.920 to 189.950, "emergency vehicle" means any vehicle used
5 for emergency purposes by:
- 6 (a) The Department of Kentucky State Police;
 - 7 (b) A public police department;
 - 8 (c) The Department of Corrections;
 - 9 (d) A sheriff's office;
 - 10 (e) A rescue squad;
 - 11 (f) An emergency management agency if it is a publicly owned vehicle;
 - 12 (g) An ambulance service or medical first-response provider licensed by the
13 Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services, for any vehicle used to
14 respond to emergencies or to transport a patient with a critical medical
15 condition;
 - 16 (h) Any vehicle commandeered by a police officer;
 - 17 (i) Any vehicle with the emergency lights required under KRS 189.920 used by a
18 paid or volunteer fireman or paid or volunteer ambulance personnel, or a paid
19 or local emergency management director while responding to an emergency or
20 to a location where an emergency vehicle is on emergency call;
 - 21 (j) An elected coroner granted permission to equip a publicly or privately owned
22 motor vehicle with lights and siren pursuant to KRS 189.920; or
 - 23 (k) A deputy coroner granted permission to equip a publicly or privately owned
24 motor vehicle with lights and siren pursuant to KRS 189.920; **or**
 - 25 **(l) A mobile command center owned by a local government.**
- 26 (2) As used in KRS 189.920 to 189.950, "public safety vehicle" means public utility
27 repair vehicle; wreckers; state, county, or municipal service vehicles and

1 equipment; highway equipment which performs work that requires stopping and
2 standing or moving at slow speeds within the traveled portions of highways; and
3 vehicles which are escorting wide-load or slow-moving trailers or trucks.

4 ➔Section 2. KRS 189.920 is amended to read as follows:

- 5 (1) All fire department, rescue squad, or publicly owned emergency management
6 agency emergency vehicles, mobile command centers owned by a local
7 government, and all ambulances shall be equipped with one (1) or more flashing,
8 rotating, or oscillating red lights, visible under normal atmospheric conditions from
9 a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the front of the vehicle, and a siren, whistle,
10 or bell, capable of emitting a sound audible under normal conditions from a distance
11 of not less than five hundred (500) feet. This equipment shall be in addition to any
12 other equipment required by the motor vehicle laws.
- 13 (2) All state, county, or municipal police vehicles and all sheriffs' vehicles used as
14 emergency vehicles shall be equipped with one (1) or more flashing, rotating, or
15 oscillating blue lights, visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance
16 of five hundred (500) feet to the front of the vehicle, and a siren, whistle, or bell,
17 capable of emitting a sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not
18 less than five hundred (500) feet. This equipment shall be in addition to any other
19 equipment required by the motor vehicle laws.
- 20 (3) By ordinance, the governing body of any city or county may direct that the police or
21 sheriffs' vehicles in that jurisdiction be equipped with a combination of red and blue
22 flashing, rotating, or oscillating lights.
- 23 (4) All public safety vehicles shall be equipped with one (1) or more flashing, rotating,
24 or oscillating yellow lights, visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a
25 distance of five hundred (500) feet to the front of the vehicle. Yellow flashing,
26 rotating, or oscillating lights may also be used by vehicles operated by mail carriers
27 while on duty, funeral escort vehicles, and church buses.

- 1 (5) All Department of Corrections vehicles used as emergency vehicles shall be
2 equipped with one (1) or more flashing, rotating, or oscillating blue lights, visible
3 under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to
4 the front of the vehicle. The Department of Corrections vehicles shall not be
5 equipped with or use a siren, whistle, or bell. The equipment prescribed by this
6 subsection shall be in addition to any other equipment required by motor vehicle
7 laws.
- 8 (6) (a) If authorized by the legislative body of a county, urban-county, charter county,
9 consolidated local government, or unified local government:
- 10 1. All publicly owned county jail and regional jail vehicles used as
11 emergency vehicles may be equipped with the one (1) or more flashing,
12 rotating, or oscillating blue lights, visible under normal atmospheric
13 conditions from a distance of five hundred (500) feet to the front of the
14 vehicle; and
- 15 2. An elected jailer or the chief administrator of a county or regional jail
16 not managed by an elected jailer may equip one (1) personally owned
17 vehicle with one (1) or more flashing, rotating, or oscillating blue lights,
18 visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance of five
19 hundred (500) feet to the front of the vehicle.
- 20 (b) Publicly owned county jail or regional jail vehicles shall not be equipped with
21 or use a siren, whistle, or bell.
- 22 (c) The equipment prescribed by this subsection shall be in addition to any other
23 equipment required by the motor vehicle laws.
- 24 (7) Red flashing lights may be used by school buses.
- 25 (8) No emergency vehicle, public safety vehicle, or any other vehicle covered by KRS
26 189.910 to 189.950 shall use any light of any other color than those specified by
27 KRS 189.910 to 189.950. Sirens, whistles, and bells may not be used by vehicles

- 1 other than those specified by KRS 189.910 to 189.950, except that any vehicle may
2 be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it cannot be
3 used by the driver as an ordinary warning signal.
- 4 (9) Vehicles used as command posts at incidents may be equipped with and use when
5 on scene, a green rotating, oscillating, or flashing light. This light shall be in
6 addition to the lights and sirens required in this section.
- 7 (10) A personal vehicle used by a paid or volunteer firefighter, ambulance personnel, or
8 emergency services director who is responding to an emergency shall display the
9 lights required in subsection (1) of this section.
- 10 (11) An elected coroner may equip a publicly or privately owned motor vehicle, or both,
11 with flashing, rotating, or oscillating red and blue lights and a siren meeting the
12 requirements of this section solely for the purpose of responding to a report of the
13 death of a human being subject to the following terms and conditions:
- 14 (a) The coroner makes a written request to the legislative body of the county,
15 urban-county, charter county, consolidated local government, or unified local
16 government in which the coroner was elected to equip a publicly or privately
17 owned motor vehicle, or both, with flashing, rotating, or oscillating red and
18 blue lights and a siren meeting the requirements of this section, and that
19 request is approved by the legislative body by ordinance or by court order;
- 20 (b) The coroner may use the lights and siren only while responding to the scene of
21 the report of a death of a human being and shall not, KRS 189.940 to the
22 contrary notwithstanding, exceed the posted speed limit; and
- 23 (c) The permission granted pursuant to this section shall expire upon the coroner
24 leaving office or the legislative body revoking the authorization.
- 25 (12) A deputy coroner certified pursuant to KRS Chapter 72 may equip a publicly owned
26 or privately owned motor vehicle, or both, with flashing, rotating, or oscillating red
27 and blue lights and a siren meeting the requirements of this section solely for the

1 purpose of responding to a report of the death of a human being, subject to the
2 following terms and conditions:

3 (a) The deputy coroner has made a written request to the coroner to equip a
4 publicly owned or privately owned vehicle with flashing, rotating, or
5 oscillating red and blue lights meeting the requirements of this section and the
6 coroner has approved the request in writing;

7 (b) The coroner makes a written request to the legislative body of the county,
8 urban-county, charter county, consolidated local government, or unified local
9 government in which the coroner is elected to permit the deputy coroner to
10 equip a publicly owned motor vehicle or privately owned motor vehicle, or
11 both, and that request has been approved by the legislative body by ordinance
12 or by court order;

13 (c) The deputy coroner may use the lights and siren only while responding to the
14 scene of the report of the death of a human being and shall not, KRS 189.940
15 to the contrary notwithstanding, exceed the posted speed limit; and

16 (d) The permission granted pursuant to this section shall expire upon the coroner
17 leaving office or the legislative body revoking the authorization.