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LC004484/SUB A

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S T A T E   O F   R H O D E   I S L A N D

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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A N   A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - FLASHING VEHICLE LIGHTS

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.**

4   (a) Flashing lights are prohibited, except on an authorized emergency vehicle, school bus,

5   snow removal equipment, or on any vehicle as a means for indicating a right or left turn.

6   However, the requirements of § 31-24-33 shall be deemed to be satisfied if the vehicle is

7   equipped with lamps at the front mounted at the same level, displaying simultaneously flashing

8   white or amber lights, and at the rear mounted at the same level, and displaying simultaneously

9   flashing red lights, all of which lights shall be visible from a distance of not less than five

10   hundred feet (500').

11   (b) Forward viewing or rotating beam lights may be installed on and shall be restricted to

12   the following categories of vehicles, and these lights shall be of color designated:

13   (1) Emergency response vehicles of any fire, rescue, or ambulance department, fire

14   chiefs, assistant fire chiefs, deputy chiefs, captains; any privately owned vehicle of any authorized

15   volunteer member of a fire, rescue, or ambulance department; emergency management agency

16   directors, assistant directors, assistant medical examiners and/or forensic pathologists of the

17   office of state medical examiners; rescue vehicles, emergency response vehicles of the

18   department of environmental management and the division of state fire marshal; school buses;

19   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 and tractors; light company trucks, telephone company trucks, water

4   company trucks, oil company trucks, and other utilities' trucks; vehicles of television, radio and

5   press photographers; newspaper motor route carriers; rural mail carriers; all motor-propelled

6   vehicles owned by the Northern Rhode Island REACT (radio emergency associated citizens

7   team); all motor-propelled vehicles owned by or under contract to the Rhode Island department of

8   transportation when on official state business; and vehicles marking the beginning and end of

9   funeral 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) Violations of this section are subject to fines enumerated in § 31-41.1-4.

20   SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2019.

EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

A N   A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - FLASHING VEHICLE LIGHTS

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1   This act would enable newspaper motor route carriers to have installed upon them

2   forward viewing a rotating amber beam lights.

3   This act would take effect on January 1, 2019.

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