



2013 SENATE BILL 241

July 31, 2013 – Introduced by Senators PETROWSKI, ERPENBACH, HANSEN, LASSA, LEHMAN, OLSEN, SCHULTZ and L. TAYLOR, cosponsored by Representatives RIPP, BERNARD SCHABER, BORN, BROOKS, HULSEY, KAHL, KRUG, MARKLEIN, OHNSTAD, A. OTT, SPIROS, TITTL, WEATHERSTON, WRIGHT and BERCEAU. Referred to Committee on Transportation, Public Safety, and Veterans and Military Affairs.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 347.25 (1); and **to create** 347.25 (1n) of the statutes; **relating**
2 **to:** warning lights on police vehicles.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law generally prohibits any vehicle from being equipped with a flashing or rotating light. Authorized emergency vehicles, such as police vehicles, fire department vehicles, ambulances, conservation warden vehicles, designated emergency vehicles of municipal or county departments, and designated emergency vehicles of state departments are exempted from this prohibition. Most emergency vehicles may be equipped with red lights or red and white lights, but police vehicles may be equipped with red and blue lights. Under this bill, a police vehicle may, in addition to other authorized lights, be equipped with one or more flashing white lights.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 **SECTION 1.** 347.25 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:
4 347.25 (1) Except as provided in subs. (1m) (a), (1n), (1r), and (1s), an
5 authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with one or more flashing,
6 oscillating, or rotating red lights, except that ambulances, fire department

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1 equipment, privately owned motor vehicles under s. 340.01 (3) (d), (dg), or (dm) being
2 used by personnel of a full-time or part-time fire department, by members of a
3 volunteer fire department or rescue squad, or by an organ procurement organization
4 or any person under an agreement with an organ procurement organization, and
5 privately owned motor vehicles under s. 340.01 (3) (dh) being used to transport or
6 pick up medical devices or equipment, may be equipped with red or red and white
7 lights, and shall be so equipped when the operator thereof is exercising the privileges
8 granted by s. 346.03. The lights shall be so designed and mounted as to be plainly
9 visible and understandable from a distance of 500 feet both during normal sunlight
10 and during hours of darkness. No operator of an authorized emergency vehicle may
11 use the warning lights except when responding to an emergency call or when in
12 pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, when responding to but not upon
13 returning from a fire alarm, when transporting an organ for human transplantation,
14 when transporting medical personnel for the purpose of performing human organ
15 harvesting or transplantation immediately after the transportation, or when
16 necessarily parked in a position which is likely to be hazardous to traffic.

17 **SECTION 2.** 347.25 (1n) of the statutes is created to read:

18 347.25 (1n) A police vehicle under s. 340.01 (3) (a) may be equipped with one
19 or more flashing white lights. The lights shall be designed and displayed so as to be
20 plainly visible and understandable from a distance of 500 feet both during normal
21 sunlight and during hours of darkness. The lights may be used only when the
22 warning lamps authorized under sub. (1) or (1m) are in use.

23 (END)