

HOUSE BILL 364

IN THE HOUSE

January 24, 1979

Introduced and referred to
Committee on Highways and
Transportation.

February 20, 1979

Committee recommend bill.

February 21, 1979

Report adopted.

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 364

2 INTRODUCED BY UHDE, KEEDY

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO ALLOW THE USE OF
5 BLUE LIGHTS ON AMBULANCES; AMENDING SECTION 61-9-402, MCA."6
7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

8 Section 1. Section 61-9-402, MCA, is amended to read:

9 "61-9-402. Audible and visual signals on vehicles. (1)

10 A police vehicle or ambulance shall be equipped with a siren
11 capable of giving an audible signal and may, but need not,
12 be equipped with alternately flashing or rotating red or
13 blue lights as specified herein. The use of signal equipment
14 described herein shall impose upon the drivers of other
15 vehicles the obligation to yield right-of-way and/or to stop
16 and to proceed past such signal or light only with caution
17 and at a speed which is no greater than is reasonable and
18 proper under the conditions existing at the point of
19 operation.20 (2) Every authorized emergency vehicle shall, in
21 addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings
22 required by this chapter, be equipped with a siren and an
23 alternately flashing or rotating red light as specified
24 herein.

25 (3) Every authorized emergency vehicle shall, in

1 addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings
2 required by this chapter, be equipped with signal lamps
3 mounted as high and as widely spaced laterally as
4 practicable, which shall be capable of displaying to the
5 front two alternately flashing red lights located at the
6 same level and to the rear two alternately flashing red
7 lights located at the same level, and these lights shall
8 have sufficient intensity to be visible at 500 feet in
9 normal sunlight.10 (4) Every bus used for the transportation of school
11 children shall, in addition to any other equipment and
12 distinctive markings required by this chapter, be equipped
13 with signal lamps mounted as high and as widely spaced
14 laterally as practicable, displaying to the front two red
15 and two amber alternating flashing lights and to the rear
16 two red and two amber alternating flashing lights. These
17 lights shall have sufficient intensity to be visible at 500
18 feet in normal sunlight. The warning lights shall be of a
19 type and located on each bus as prescribed by the state
20 board of education and approved by the division.21 (5) Police vehicles and authorized emergency vehicles
22 may, and emergency service vehicles shall, in addition to
23 any other equipment and distinctive markings required by
24 this chapter be equipped with alternately flashing or
25 rotating amber lights as specified herein. The use of

1 signal equipment described herein shall impose upon the
2 drivers of other vehicles the obligation to yield
3 right-of-way and/or to stop and to proceed past such signal
4 or light only with caution and at a speed which is no
5 greater than is reasonable and proper under the conditions
6 existing at the point of operation.

7 (6) Blue, red, and amber lights required in
8 subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section shall be
9 mounted as high as and as widely spaced laterally as
10 practicable and capable of displaying to the front two
11 alternately flashing lights of the specified color located
12 at the same level and to the rear two alternately flashing
13 lights of the specified color located at the same level or
14 as an alternative, one rotating light of the specified
15 color, mounted as high as is practicable which shall be both
16 visible front and rear. These lights shall have sufficient
17 intensity to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight. The
18 use of blue lights as required in subsection (1) of this
19 section shall be restricted to police vehicles as defined in
20 61-1-118 and ambulances.*

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