

SENATE BILL NO. 387

INTRODUCED BY LYBECK, BLAYLOCK, GALT, SCHYE, COHEN,
ECK, IVERSON, NEUMAN, FARRELL, HAGER, WEEDING, SPAETH,
SWITZER, DEVLIN, CONNELLY, KOEHNKE, LANE, MANUEL,
E. SMITH, HALLIGAN, JACOBSON, ZABROCKI, B. BROWN,
H. HAMMOND, JANET MOORE, BOYLAN, MOHAR

IN THE SENATE

February 12, 1985	Introduced and referred to Committee on Highways and Transportation.
February 14, 1985	Fiscal Note requested.
February 18, 1985	Fiscal Note returned.
February 22, 1985	Committee recommend bill do pass as amended. Report adopted.
February 23, 1985	Bill printed and placed on members' desks.
February 25, 1985	Second reading, do pass.
February 26, 1985	Considered correctly engrossed.
February 27, 1985	Third reading, passed. Ayes, 50; Noes, 0.
	Transmitted to House.

IN THE HOUSE

March 7, 1985	Introduced and referred to Committee on Highways and Transportation.
March 20, 1985	Committee recommend bill be concurrred in. Report adopted.

March 23, 1985

Second reading, concurred in.

March 25, 1985

Third reading, concurred in.

Returned to Senate.

IN THE SENATE

March 25, 1985

Received from House.

March 26, 1985

Sent to enrolling.

Reported correctly enrolled.

1 *Senate* BILL NO. *387*
 2 INTRODUCED BY *Sylvia Blaylock Galt*
 3 *Eck* *Juan Manuel Fanel* *Hager* *Welding*
 4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO REQUIRE POLICE AND
 5 EMERGENCY VEHICLES TO CARRY A PORTABLE GREEN SIGNAL LIGHT
 6 FOR PURPOSES OF DESIGNATION AS THE ON-SCENE COMMAND AND
 7 CONTROL VEHICLE IN AN EMERGENCY OR DISASTER; AMENDING
 8 SECTION 61-9-402, MCA." *Halligan* *Jacobson* *Zabroch* *Conrad*
 9 *Bob Brown* *Janet Mook* *Boyle* *Illoken* *Krehmke*
 10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA: *LANE*

11 Section 1. Section 61-9-402, MCA, is amended to read:
 12 "61-9-402. Audible and visual signals on police and
 13 emergency vehicles and on-scene command vehicles. (1) A
 14 police vehicle shall be equipped with a siren capable of
 15 giving an audible signal and may, but need not, be equipped
 16 with alternately flashing or rotating red or blue lights as
 17 specified herein. The use of signal equipment described
 18 herein shall impose upon the drivers of other vehicles the
 19 obligation to yield right-of-way and/or to stop and to
 20 proceed past such signal or light only with caution and at a
 21 speed which is no greater than is reasonable and proper
 22 under the conditions existing at the point of operation.
 23 (2) Every authorized emergency vehicle shall, in
 24 addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings
 25 required by this chapter, be equipped with a siren and an

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



-2-
 INTRODUCED BILL
 SB 387

1 any other equipment and distinctive markings required by
 2 this chapter be equipped with alternately flashing or
 3 rotating amber lights as specified herein. The use of
 4 signal equipment described herein shall impose upon the
 5 drivers of other vehicles the obligation to yield
 6 right-of-way and/or to stop and to proceed past such signal
 7 or light only with caution and at a speed which is no
 8 greater than is reasonable and proper under the conditions
 9 existing at the point of operation.

10 (6) Blue, red, and amber lights required in
 11 subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section shall be
 12 mounted as high as and as widely spaced laterally as
 13 practicable and capable of displaying to the front two
 14 alternately flashing lights of the specified color located
 15 at the same level and to the rear two alternately flashing
 16 lights of the specified color located at the same level or
 17 as an alternative, one rotating light of the specified
 18 color, mounted as high as is practicable which shall be both
 19 visible front and rear. These lights shall have sufficient
 20 intensity to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight. The
 21 use of blue lights as required in subsection (1) of this
 22 section shall be restricted to police vehicles as defined in
 23 61-1-118.

24 (7) Every police car and authorized emergency vehicle
 25 shall be equipped with a portable signal lamp that is green

1 in color and capable of magnetic attachment to the exterior
 2 roof of the vehicle for purposes of designation as the
 3 on-scene command and control vehicle in an emergency or
 4 disaster. The green light shall have sufficient intensity to
 5 be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight."

-End-

STATE OF MONTANA

REQUEST NO. FNN412-85

FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request received February 14, 19 85, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for S.B. 387 pursuant to Title 5, Chapter 4, Part 2 of the Montana Code Annotated (MCA). Background information used in developing this Fiscal Note is available from the Office of Budget and Program Planning, to members of the Legislature upon request.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

An act to require police and emergency vehicles to carry a portable green signal light for purposes of designation as the on-scene command and control vehicle in an emergency or disaster.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are 219 highway patrol cars, 400 Division of Forestry vehicles, 25 livestock inspector vehicles, 67 game warden trucks and over 200 ambulances. The number of city police cars and county sheriff vehicles is unknown.

A non-flashing magnetic light costs \$50. Of the known vehicles which will be mandated to carry a light, the cost is \$45,550 (911 x \$50). These costs would be borne by the general funds, earmarked, and federal funds as well as the city and county funds.

LOCAL IMPACTS:

There are costs associated with the bill which will cause increased expenditures for the cities and counties.

LONG-RANGE EFFECTS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

There will be some on-going costs to replace damaged and worn out lights.

TECHNICAL NOTE:

None.

David L. Hunter

BUDGET DIRECTOR

Office of Budget and Program Planning

Date: Feb 18, 1985

S.B. 387

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
ON HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

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8 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALLOW POLICE
9 AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES TO CARRY A PORTABLE GREEN SIGNAL
10 LIGHT FOR PURPOSES OF DESIGNATION AS THE ON-SCENE COMMAND
11 AND CONTROL VEHICLE IN AN EMERGENCY OR DISASTER; AMENDING
12 SECTION 61-9-402, MCA."

13
14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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

16 "61-9-402. Audible and visual signals on police and
17 emergency vehicles and on-scene command vehicles. (1) A
18 police vehicle shall be equipped with a siren capable of
19 giving an audible signal and may, but need not, be equipped
20 with alternately flashing or rotating red or blue lights as
21 specified herein. The use of signal equipment described
22 herein shall impose upon the drivers of other vehicles the
23 obligation to yield right-of-way and/or to stop and to
24 proceed past such signal or light only with caution and at a
25 speed which is no greater than is reasonable and proper

1 under the conditions existing at the point of operation.

2 (2) Every authorized emergency vehicle shall, in
3 addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings
4 required by this chapter, be equipped with a siren and an
5 alternately flashing or rotating red light as specified
6 herein.

7 (3) Every authorized emergency vehicle shall, in
8 addition to any other equipment and distinctive markings
9 required by this chapter, be equipped with signal lamps
10 mounted as high and as widely spaced laterally as
11 practicable, which shall be capable of displaying to the
12 front two alternately flashing red lights located at the
13 same level and to the rear two alternately flashing red
14 lights located at the same level, and these lights shall
15 have sufficient intensity to be visible at 500 feet in
16 normal sunlight.

17 (4) Every bus used for the transportation of school
18 children shall, in addition to any other equipment and
19 distinctive markings required by this chapter, be equipped
20 with signal lamps mounted as high and as widely spaced
21 laterally as practicable, displaying to the front two red
22 and two amber alternating flashing lights and to the rear
23 two red and two amber alternating flashing lights. These
24 lights shall have sufficient intensity to be visible at 500
25 feet in normal sunlight. The warning lights shall be of a

1 type and located on each bus as prescribed by the state
2 board of education and approved by the division.

3 (5) Police vehicles and authorized emergency vehicles
4 may, and emergency service vehicles shall, in addition to
5 any other equipment and distinctive markings required by
6 this chapter be equipped with alternately flashing or
7 rotating amber lights as specified herein. The use of
8 signal equipment described herein shall impose upon the
9 drivers of other vehicles the obligation to yield
10 right-of-way and/or to stop and to proceed past such signal
11 or light only with caution and at a speed which is no
12 greater than is reasonable and proper under the conditions
13 existing at the point of operation.

14 (6) Blue, red, and amber lights required in
15 subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section shall be
16 mounted as high as and as widely spaced laterally as
17 practicable and capable of displaying to the front two
18 alternately flashing lights of the specified color located
19 at the same level and to the rear two alternately flashing
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21 as an alternative, one rotating light of the specified
22 color, mounted as high as is practicable which shall be both
23 visible front and rear. These lights shall have sufficient
24 intensity to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight. The
25 use of blue lights as required in subsection (1) of this

1 section shall be restricted to police vehicles as defined in
2 61-1-118.

3 (7) Every police car and authorized emergency vehicle
4 shall MAY be equipped with a portable signal lamp that is
5 green in color and capable of magnetic attachment to the
6 exterior roof of the vehicle for purposes of designation as
7 the on-scene command and control vehicle in an emergency or
8 disaster. The green light shall have sufficient intensity to
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