

EMERGENCY VEHICLE AMENDMENTS

2002 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: Paul Ray

This act modifies the Motor Vehicle Code to clarify the duties of drivers when approaching stationary emergency vehicles on highways.

This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:

AMENDS:

41-6-76, as last amended by Chapter 138, Laws of Utah 1987

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **41-6-76** is amended to read:

41-6-76. Approaching emergency vehicle -- Necessary signals -- Stationary emergency vehicle -- Duties of respective operators.

(1) ~~Upon~~ Except when otherwise directed by a peace officer, the operator of a vehicle, upon the immediate approach of an authorized emergency vehicle using audible or visual signals under Section 41-6-14, 41-6-132, or 41-6-146 or of a peace officer vehicle lawfully using an audible or visual signal, [the operator of every other vehicle] shall:

(a) yield the right-of-way and immediately move to a position parallel to, and as close as possible to, the right-hand edge or curb of the highway, clear of any intersection; and [shall]

(b) then stop and remain there until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed[; except when otherwise directed by a peace officer].

(2) The operator of a vehicle, upon approaching a stationary authorized emergency vehicle that is displaying alternately flashing red, red and white, or red and blue lights, shall:

(a) reduce the speed of the vehicle;

(b) provide as much space as practical to the stationary authorized emergency vehicle; and

(c) if traveling in a lane adjacent to the stationary authorized emergency vehicle and if practical, with due regard to safety and traffic conditions, make a lane change into a lane not



28 adjacent to the authorized emergency vehicle.

29 (3) The operator of a vehicle, upon approaching a stationary tow truck or highway
30 maintenance vehicle that is displaying alternately flashing amber lights, shall:

31 (a) reduce the speed of the vehicle; and

32 (b) provide as much space as practical to the stationary tow truck or highway maintenance
33 vehicle.

34 [~~2~~] (4) This section does not relieve the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle,
35 tow truck, or highway maintenance vehicle from the duty to drive with regard for the safety of all
36 persons using the highway.

Legislative Review Note
as of 1-7-02 10:34 AM

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel