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MOTOR VEHICLE EQUIPMENT AMENDMENTS

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Ariel Defay

Senate Sponsor: Heidi Balderree

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies motor vehicle lighting requirements.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- prohibits illuminating an auxiliary light that exhibits certain characteristics on a public roadway.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

41-6a-1604, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2017, Chapter 83

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

Section 1. Section **41-6a-1604** is amended to read:

41-6a-1604 . Motor vehicle head lamps, tail lamps, stop lamps, and other lamps --

Requirements -- Penalty.

- (1) A motor vehicle shall be equipped with at least two head lamps with at least one on each side of the front of the motor vehicle.
- (2) (a) A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, and any other vehicle which is being drawn at the end of a combination of vehicles, shall be equipped with at least two tail lamps and two or more red reflectors mounted on the rear.
- (b) (i) Except as provided under Subsections (2)(b)(ii), (2)(c), and Section 41-6a-1612, all stop lamps or other lamps and reflectors mounted on the rear of a vehicle shall

- 29 display or reflect a red color.
- 30 (ii) A turn signal or hazard warning light may be red or yellow.
- 31 (c) Either a tail lamp or a separate lamp shall be so constructed and placed as to
- 32 illuminate with a white light the rear registration plate.
- 33 (3) (a) A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer shall be equipped with two or
- 34 more stop lamps and flashing turn signals.
- 35 (b) A supplemental stop lamp may be mounted on the rear of a vehicle, if the
- 36 supplemental stop lamp:
- 37 (i) emits a red light;
- 38 (ii) is mounted:
- 39 (A) and constructed so that no light emitted from the device, either direct or
- 40 reflected, is visible to the driver;
- 41 (B) not lower than 15 inches above the roadway; and
- 42 (C) on the vertical center line of the vehicle; and
- 43 (iii) is the size, design, and candle power that conforms to federal standards
- 44 regulating stop lamps.
- 45 (4) (a) Each head lamp, tail lamp, supplemental stop lamp, flashing turn lamp, other
- 46 lamp, or reflector required under this part shall comply with the requirements and
- 47 limitations established under Section 41-6a-1601.
- 48 (b) The department, by rules made under Section 41-6a-1601, may require trucks, buses,
- 49 motor homes, motor vehicles with truck-campers, trailers, semitrailers, and pole
- 50 trailers to have additional lamps and reflectors.
- 51 (5) The department, by rules made under Section 41-6a-1601, may allow:
- 52 (a) one tail lamp on any vehicle equipped with only one when it was made;
- 53 (b) one stop lamp on any vehicle equipped with only one when it was made; and
- 54 (c) passenger cars and trucks with a width less than 80 inches and manufactured or
- 55 assembled prior to January 1, 1953, need not be equipped with electric turn signal
- 56 lamps.
- 57 (6) (a) As used in this section, "continuously flashing light system" means a light system
- 58 for a supplemental stop lamp described in Subsection (3)(b) in which the stop lamp
- 59 or reflector pulses rapidly for no more than five seconds when the brake is applied
- 60 and then converts to a continuous light as a normal stop lamp or reflector until the
- 61 time that the brake is released.
- 62 (b) A motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer may be equipped with a

- 63 continuously flashing light system.
- 64 (7) Except as provided under Subsection (8) or (9), an auxiliary light installed on a motor
65 vehicle may only be illuminated on a public roadway if the light:
- 66 (a) conforms to the color and location of:
- 67 (i) white or amber, if the light is located on or visible from the front of the vehicle;
68 (ii) amber, if the light is located on or visible from the side of the vehicle; or
69 (iii) amber or red, if the light is located on or visible from the rear of the vehicle;
- 70 (b) emits a steady beam of light and does not blink, oscillate, rotate, or flash;
- 71 (c) does not emit a beam that:
- 72 (i) is brighter than the vehicle's original equipment lighting;
73 (ii) has a greater candlepower than the vehicle's original equipment lighting; or
74 (iii) distracts from the visibility of the vehicle's original equipment lighting; and
- 75 (d) does not distract or impair the vision of the operator or other drivers on the roadway.
- 76 (8) Subsection (7) does not apply to lighting:
- 77 (a) installed by the vehicle's manufacturer in accordance with 49 C.F.R. Sec. 571.108; or
78 (b) devices provided by transportation network companies as defined in Section
79 13-51-102 to identify and indicate the status of a vehicle used to provide
80 transportation network services as defined in Section 13-51-102, when approved by
81 the department as permitted by Section 41-6a-1602.
- 82 (9) Subsection (7) does not apply to off-highway vehicle operating on a public road
83 designated for off-highway vehicle use.
- 84 (10) A violation of this section is an infraction.
- 85 Section 2. **Effective date.**
- 86 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.