



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB1276

Introduced 1/28/2025, by Rep. Maurice A. West, II

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

625 ILCS 5/12-215  
625 ILCS 5/12-601

from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 12-601

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Allows the use of red or white oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights or blue oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights on vehicles owned or operated by volunteer firefighters and volunteer EMS providers, but only when responding to an emergency call or parked or stationary while engaged in motor vehicle assistance or at the scene of the emergency. Allows a vehicle operated by a volunteer firefighter or volunteer EMS provider to be equipped with a siren, whistle, or bell, to be used only when responding to an emergency call.

LRB104 06170 LNS 16204 b

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by  
5 changing Sections 12-215 and 12-601 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/12-215)

7 Sec. 12-215. Oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights on  
8 motor vehicles. Except as otherwise provided in this Code:

9 (a) The use of red or white oscillating, rotating, or  
10 flashing lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited  
11 except on:

12 1. Law enforcement vehicles of State, federal, or  
13 local authorities;

14 2. A vehicle operated by a police officer or county  
15 coroner and designated or authorized by local authorities,  
16 in writing, as a law enforcement vehicle; however, such  
17 designation or authorization must be carried in the  
18 vehicle;

19 2.1. A vehicle operated by a fire chief, deputy fire  
20 chief, or assistant fire chief who has completed an  
21 emergency vehicle operation training course approved by  
22 the Office of the State Fire Marshal and designated or  
23 authorized by local authorities, fire departments, or fire

1 protection districts, in writing, as a fire department,  
2 fire protection district, or township fire department  
3 vehicle; however, the designation or authorization must be  
4 carried in the vehicle, and the lights may be visible or  
5 activated only when responding to a bona fide emergency;

6 3. Vehicles of local fire departments and State or  
7 federal firefighting vehicles;

8 4. Vehicles which are designed and used exclusively as  
9 ambulances or rescue vehicles; furthermore, such lights  
10 shall not be lighted except when responding to an  
11 emergency call for and while actually conveying the sick  
12 or injured;

13 4.5. Vehicles which are occasionally used as rescue  
14 vehicles that have been authorized for use as rescue  
15 vehicles by a volunteer EMS provider, provided that the  
16 operator of the vehicle has successfully completed an  
17 emergency vehicle operation training course recognized by  
18 the Department of Public Health; furthermore, the lights  
19 shall not be lighted except when responding to an  
20 emergency call for the sick or injured;

21 5. Tow trucks licensed in a state that requires such  
22 lights; furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted on  
23 any such tow truck while the tow truck is operating in the  
24 State of Illinois;

25 6. Vehicles of the Illinois Emergency Management  
26 Agency, vehicles of the Office of the Illinois State Fire

1 Marshal, vehicles of the Illinois Department of Public  
2 Health, vehicles of the Illinois Department of  
3 Corrections, and vehicles of the Illinois Department of  
4 Juvenile Justice;

5 7. Vehicles operated by a local or county emergency  
6 management services agency as defined in the Illinois  
7 Emergency Management Agency Act;

8 8. School buses operating alternately flashing head  
9 lamps as permitted under Section 12-805 of this Code;

10 9. Vehicles that are equipped and used exclusively as  
11 organ transplant vehicles when used in combination with  
12 blue oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights;  
13 furthermore, these lights shall be lighted only when the  
14 transportation is declared an emergency by a member of the  
15 transplant team or a representative of the organ  
16 procurement organization;

17 10. Vehicles of the Illinois Department of Natural  
18 Resources that are used for mine rescue and explosives  
19 emergency response;

20 11. Vehicles of the Illinois Department of  
21 Transportation identified as Emergency Traffic Patrol; the  
22 lights shall not be lighted except when responding to an  
23 emergency call or when parked or stationary while engaged  
24 in motor vehicle assistance or at the scene of the  
25 emergency; ~~and~~

26 12. Vehicles of the Illinois State Toll Highway

1 Authority with a gross vehicle weight rating of 9,000  
2 pounds or more and those identified as Highway Emergency  
3 Lane Patrol; the lights shall not be lighted except when  
4 responding to an emergency call or when parked or  
5 stationary while engaged in motor vehicle assistance or at  
6 the scene of the emergency; and -

7 13. Vehicles owned or operated by volunteer  
8 firefighters and volunteer EMS providers; the lights shall  
9 not be lighted except when responding to an emergency call  
10 or parked or stationary while engaged in motor vehicle  
11 assistance or at the scene of the emergency.

12 (b) The use of amber oscillating, rotating, or flashing  
13 lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited except on:

14 1. Second division vehicles designed and used for  
15 towing or hoisting vehicles; furthermore, such lights  
16 shall not be lighted except as required in this paragraph  
17 1; such lights shall be lighted when such vehicles are  
18 actually being used at the scene of a crash or  
19 disablement; if the towing vehicle is equipped with a flat  
20 bed that supports all wheels of the vehicle being  
21 transported, the lights shall not be lighted while the  
22 vehicle is engaged in towing on a highway; if the towing  
23 vehicle is not equipped with a flat bed that supports all  
24 wheels of a vehicle being transported, the lights shall be  
25 lighted while the towing vehicle is engaged in towing on a  
26 highway during all times when the use of headlights is

1 required under Section 12-201 of this Code; in addition,  
2 these vehicles may use white oscillating, rotating, or  
3 flashing lights in combination with amber oscillating,  
4 rotating, or flashing lights as provided in this  
5 paragraph;

6 2. Motor vehicles or equipment of the State of  
7 Illinois, the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, local  
8 authorities, and contractors; furthermore, such lights  
9 shall not be lighted except while such vehicles are  
10 engaged in maintenance or construction operations within  
11 the limits of construction projects;

12 3. Vehicles or equipment used by engineering or survey  
13 crews; furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted  
14 except while such vehicles are actually engaged in work on  
15 a highway;

16 4. Vehicles of public utilities, municipalities, or  
17 other construction, maintenance, or automotive service  
18 vehicles except that such lights shall be lighted only as  
19 a means for indicating the presence of a vehicular traffic  
20 hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, overtaking,  
21 or passing while such vehicles are engaged in maintenance,  
22 service, or construction on a highway;

23 5. Oversized vehicle or load; however, such lights  
24 shall only be lighted when moving under permit issued by  
25 the Department under Section 15-301 of this Code;

26 6. The front and rear of motorized equipment owned and

1           operated by the State of Illinois or any political  
2           subdivision thereof, which is designed and used for  
3           removal of snow and ice from highways;

4           6.1. The front and rear of motorized equipment or  
5           vehicles that (i) are not owned by the State of Illinois or  
6           any political subdivision of the State, (ii) are designed  
7           and used for removal of snow and ice from highways and  
8           parking lots, and (iii) are equipped with a snow plow that  
9           is 12 feet in width; these lights may not be lighted except  
10          when the motorized equipment or vehicle is actually being  
11          used for those purposes on behalf of a unit of government;

12          7. Fleet safety vehicles registered in another state,  
13          furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted except as  
14          provided for in Section 12-212 of this Code;

15          8. Such other vehicles as may be authorized by local  
16          authorities;

17          9. Law enforcement vehicles of State or local  
18          authorities when used in combination with red oscillating,  
19          rotating, or flashing lights;

20          9.5. Propane delivery trucks;

21          10. Vehicles used for collecting or delivering mail  
22          for the United States Postal Service provided that such  
23          lights shall not be lighted except when such vehicles are  
24          actually being used for such purposes;

25          10.5. Vehicles of the Office of the Illinois State  
26          Fire Marshal, provided that such lights shall not be

1 lighted except for when such vehicles are engaged in work  
2 for the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal;

3 11. Any vehicle displaying a slow-moving vehicle  
4 emblem as provided in Section 12-205.1;

5 12. All trucks equipped with self-compactors or  
6 roll-off hoists and roll-on containers for garbage,  
7 recycling, or refuse hauling. Such lights shall not be  
8 lighted except when such vehicles are actually being used  
9 for such purposes;

10 13. Vehicles used by a security company, alarm  
11 responder, control agency, or the Illinois Department of  
12 Corrections;

13 14. Security vehicles of the Department of Human  
14 Services; however, the lights shall not be lighted except  
15 when being used for security related purposes under the  
16 direction of the superintendent of the facility where the  
17 vehicle is located; and

18 15. Vehicles of union representatives, except that the  
19 lights shall be lighted only while the vehicle is within  
20 the limits of a construction project.

21 (c) The use of blue oscillating, rotating, or flashing  
22 lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited except on:

23 1. Rescue squad vehicles not owned by a fire  
24 department or fire protection district and vehicles owned  
25 or operated by a:

26 voluntary firefighter;

1           paid firefighter;  
2           part-paid firefighter;  
3           call firefighter;  
4           member of the board of trustees of a fire  
5 protection district;  
6           paid or unpaid member of a rescue squad;  
7           paid or unpaid member of a voluntary ambulance  
8 unit; or  
9           paid or unpaid members of a local or county  
10 emergency management services agency as defined in the  
11 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, designated  
12 or authorized by local authorities, in writing, and  
13 carrying that designation or authorization in the  
14 vehicle.

15           However, such lights are not to be lighted except when  
16 responding to a bona fide emergency or when parked or  
17 stationary at the scene of a fire, rescue call, ambulance  
18 call, or motor vehicle crash.

19           Any person using these lights in accordance with this  
20 subdivision (c)1 must carry on his or her person an  
21 identification card or letter identifying the bona fide  
22 member of a fire department, fire protection district,  
23 rescue squad, ambulance unit, or emergency management  
24 services agency that owns or operates that vehicle. The  
25 card or letter must include:

26           (A) the name of the fire department, fire

1 protection district, rescue squad, ambulance unit, or  
2 emergency management services agency;

3 (B) the member's position within the fire  
4 department, fire protection district, rescue squad,  
5 ambulance unit, or emergency management services  
6 agency;

7 (C) the member's term of service; and

8 (D) the name of a person within the fire  
9 department, fire protection district, rescue squad,  
10 ambulance unit, or emergency management services  
11 agency to contact to verify the information provided.

12 2. Police department vehicles in cities having a  
13 population of 500,000 or more inhabitants.

14 3. Law enforcement vehicles of State or local  
15 authorities when used in combination with red oscillating,  
16 rotating, or flashing lights.

17 4. Vehicles of local fire departments and State or  
18 federal firefighting vehicles when used in combination  
19 with red oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights.

20 5. Vehicles which are designed and used exclusively as  
21 ambulances or rescue vehicles when used in combination  
22 with red oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights;  
23 furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted except when  
24 responding to an emergency call.

25 6. Vehicles that are equipped and used exclusively as  
26 organ transport vehicles when used in combination with red

1       oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights; furthermore,  
2       these lights shall only be lighted when the transportation  
3       is declared an emergency by a member of the transplant  
4       team or a representative of the organ procurement  
5       organization.

6             7. Vehicles of the Illinois Emergency Management  
7       Agency, vehicles of the Office of the Illinois State Fire  
8       Marshal, vehicles of the Illinois Department of Public  
9       Health, vehicles of the Illinois Department of  
10      Corrections, and vehicles of the Illinois Department of  
11      Juvenile Justice, when used in combination with red  
12      oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights.

13            8. Vehicles operated by a local or county emergency  
14      management services agency as defined in the Illinois  
15      Emergency Management Agency Act, when used in combination  
16      with red oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights.

17            9. Vehicles of the Illinois Department of Natural  
18      Resources that are used for mine rescue and explosives  
19      emergency response, when used in combination with red  
20      oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights.

21            10. Vehicles owned or operated by volunteer  
22      firefighters and volunteer EMS providers; the lights shall  
23      not be lighted except when responding to an emergency call  
24      or parked or stationary while engaged in motor vehicle  
25      assistance or at the scene of the emergency.

26      (c-1) In addition to the blue oscillating, rotating, or

1 flashing lights permitted under subsection (c), ~~and~~  
2 ~~notwithstanding subsection (a)~~, a vehicle operated by a  
3 voluntary firefighter, a voluntary member of a rescue squad,  
4 or a member of a voluntary ambulance unit may be equipped with  
5 flashing white headlights and blue grill lights, which may be  
6 used only in responding to an emergency call or when parked or  
7 stationary at the scene of a fire, rescue call, ambulance  
8 call, or motor vehicle crash.

9 (c-2) In addition to the blue oscillating, rotating, or  
10 flashing lights permitted under subsection (c), and  
11 notwithstanding subsection (a), a vehicle operated by a paid  
12 or unpaid member of a local or county emergency management  
13 services agency as defined in the Illinois Emergency  
14 Management Agency Act, may be equipped with white oscillating,  
15 rotating, or flashing lights to be used in combination with  
16 blue oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights, if  
17 authorization by local authorities is in writing and carried  
18 in the vehicle.

19 (d) The use of a combination of amber and white  
20 oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights, whether lighted or  
21 unlighted, is prohibited except on second division vehicles  
22 designed and used for towing or hoisting vehicles or motor  
23 vehicles or equipment of the State of Illinois, local  
24 authorities, contractors, and union representatives;  
25 furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted on second  
26 division vehicles designed and used for towing or hoisting

1 vehicles or vehicles of the State of Illinois, local  
2 authorities, and contractors except while such vehicles are  
3 engaged in a tow operation, highway maintenance, or  
4 construction operations within the limits of highway  
5 construction projects, and shall not be lighted on the  
6 vehicles of union representatives except when those vehicles  
7 are within the limits of a construction project.

8 (d-5) The use of green oscillating, flashing, or rotating  
9 lights, whether lighted or unlighted, is prohibited except on:

10 1. Second division vehicles designed and used for  
11 towing or hoisting vehicles when the lights on those  
12 vehicles are used in combination with amber or amber and  
13 white oscillating, flashing, or rotating lights;  
14 furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted except when  
15 such vehicles are actually being used at the scene of a  
16 crash or disablement.

17 2. Motor vehicles or equipment of the State of  
18 Illinois when the lights on those vehicles or equipment  
19 are used in combination with amber or amber and white  
20 oscillating, flashing, or rotating lights; furthermore,  
21 such lights shall not be lighted except while such  
22 vehicles or equipment are engaged in maintenance  
23 operations, snow and ice removal operations, or performing  
24 traffic control and protection duties while at an  
25 emergency scene.

26 3. Motor vehicles of the Department of Transportation

1 identified as Emergency Traffic Patrol when the lights on  
2 those vehicles are used in combination with red and white  
3 oscillating, flashing, or rotating lights when responding  
4 to an emergency call or when parked or stationary while  
5 engaged in motor vehicle assistance or at an emergency  
6 scene.

7 4. Motor vehicles of the Illinois State Toll Highway  
8 Authority when the lights on those vehicles are used in  
9 combination with amber oscillating, flashing, or rotating  
10 lights; furthermore, such lights shall not be lighted  
11 except while such vehicles are engaged in maintenance  
12 operations, snow and ice removal operations, or performing  
13 traffic control and protection duties while at an  
14 emergency scene.

15 5. Motor vehicles of the Illinois State Toll Highway  
16 Authority with a gross vehicle weight rating of 9,000  
17 pounds or more and those identified as Highway Emergency  
18 Lane Patrol when the lights on those vehicles are used in  
19 combination with red and white oscillating, flashing, or  
20 rotating lights when responding to an emergency call or  
21 when parked or stationary while engaged in motor vehicle  
22 assistance or at the scene of the emergency.

23 6. Motor vehicles or equipment of local authority or  
24 municipalities which perform highway maintenance  
25 operations, when the lights on those vehicles are used in  
26 combination with amber or amber and white oscillating,

1 flashing, or rotating lights; furthermore, such lights  
2 shall not be lighted except while such vehicles are  
3 engaged in the maintenance operations, snow and ice  
4 removal operations, or performing traffic control and  
5 protection duties while at an emergency scene.

6 7. Fire department vehicles of local fire departments  
7 and State or federal firefighting vehicles when the lights  
8 on those vehicles are used in combination with red, or red  
9 and white, or red and blue, oscillating, rotating, or  
10 flashing lights.

11 8. Vehicles used by a security company when the lights  
12 on those vehicles are used in combination with amber  
13 oscillating, flashing, or rotating lights; furthermore,  
14 such lights shall not be lighted except when the vehicle  
15 is being operated upon the property or location where the  
16 security company is employed to perform security or crime  
17 prevention duties.

18 9. Ambulances or rescue vehicles operating in counties  
19 with populations of less than 2,000,000.

20 (d-10) Fire department vehicles of local fire departments  
21 and State or federal firefighting vehicles, police vehicles of  
22 State, federal, or local authorities, and vehicles designated  
23 by local or State authority, while parked at an emergency  
24 scene, may use a steady-on illumination or steady-burn, or  
25 flashing green beacon or beacons if such steady-on,  
26 steady-burn, or flashing beacon is used to indicate an

1 emergency operations command post or incident command  
2 location.

3 (e) All oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights referred  
4 to in this Section shall be of sufficient intensity, when  
5 illuminated, to be visible at 500 feet in normal sunlight.

6 (f) Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a manufacturer  
7 of oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights or his  
8 representative or authorized vendor from temporarily mounting  
9 such lights on a vehicle for demonstration purposes only. If  
10 the lights are not covered while the vehicle is operated upon a  
11 highway, the vehicle shall display signage indicating that the  
12 vehicle is out of service or not an emergency vehicle. The  
13 signage shall be displayed on all sides of the vehicle in  
14 letters at least 2 inches tall and one-half inch wide. A  
15 vehicle authorized to have oscillating, rotating, or flashing  
16 lights mounted for demonstration purposes may not activate the  
17 lights while the vehicle is operated upon a highway.

18 (g) Any person violating the provisions of subsection (a),  
19 (b), (c), (d), (d-5), or (d-10) of this Section who without  
20 lawful authority stops or detains or attempts to stop or  
21 detain another person shall be guilty of a Class 2 felony.

22 (h) Except as provided in subsection (g) above, any person  
23 violating the provisions of subsection (a) or (c) of this  
24 Section shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

25 (Source: P.A. 102-842, eff. 1-1-23; 102-982, eff. 7-1-23;  
26 103-154, eff. 6-30-23; 103-667, eff. 1-1-25.)

1 (625 ILCS 5/12-601) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 12-601)

2 Sec. 12-601. Horns and warning devices.

3 (a) Every motor vehicle when operated upon a highway shall  
4 be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of  
5 emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance  
6 of not less than 200 feet, but no horn or other warning device  
7 shall emit an unreasonable loud or harsh sound or a whistle.  
8 The driver of a motor vehicle shall when reasonably necessary  
9 to insure safe operation give audible warning with his horn  
10 but shall not otherwise use such horn when upon a highway.

11 (b) No vehicle shall be equipped with nor shall any person  
12 use upon a vehicle any siren, whistle, or bell, except as  
13 otherwise permitted in this Section. Any authorized emergency  
14 vehicle or organ transport vehicle as defined in Chapter 1 of  
15 this Code or a vehicle operated by a fire chief, deputy fire  
16 chief, assistant fire chief, volunteer firefighter, volunteer  
17 EMS provider, or the Director or Coordinator of a municipal or  
18 county emergency services and disaster agency may be equipped  
19 with a siren, whistle, or bell capable of emitting sound  
20 audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less  
21 than 500 feet, but such siren, whistle, or bell shall not be  
22 used except when such vehicle is operated in response to an  
23 emergency call or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or  
24 suspected violator of the law in either of which events the  
25 driver of such vehicle shall sound such siren, whistle, or

1 bell when necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of  
2 the approach thereof.

3 (c) Trackless trolley coaches, as defined by Section 1-206  
4 of this Code, and replica trolleys, as defined by Section  
5 1-171.04 of this Code, may be equipped with a bell or bells in  
6 lieu of a horn, and may, in addition to the requirements of  
7 subsection (a) of this Section, use a bell or bells for the  
8 purpose of indicating arrival or departure at designated stops  
9 during the hours of scheduled operation.

10 (Source: P.A. 102-448, eff. 1-1-22.)