

---

HOUSE BILL 2291

---

State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1992 Regular Session

By Representatives R. Fisher, Betrozoff and Zellinsky

Prefiled 1/10/92. Read first time 01/13/92. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to regulating the use of optical strobe light  
2 devices controlling traffic control lights; and amending RCW 46.37.190.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.37.190 and 1987 c 330 s 710 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            (1) Every authorized emergency vehicle shall, in addition to any  
7 other equipment and distinctive marking required by this chapter, be  
8 equipped with at least one lamp capable of displaying a red light  
9 visible from at least five hundred feet in normal sunlight and a siren  
10 capable of giving an audible signal.

11            (2) Every school bus and private carrier bus shall, in addition to  
12 any other equipment and distinctive markings required by this chapter,  
13 be equipped with a "stop" signal upon a background not less than  
14 fourteen by eighteen inches displaying the word "stop" in letters of

1 distinctly contrasting colors not less than eight inches high, and  
2 shall further be equipped with signal lamps mounted as high and as  
3 widely spaced laterally as practicable, which shall be capable of  
4 displaying to the front two alternately flashing red lights located at  
5 the same level and to the rear two alternately flashing red lights  
6 located at the same level and these lights shall have sufficient  
7 intensity to be visible at five hundred feet in normal sunlight.

8 (3) Vehicles operated by public agencies whose law enforcement  
9 duties include the authority to stop and detain motor vehicles on the  
10 public highways of the state may be equipped with a siren and lights of  
11 a color and type designated by the state patrol for that purpose. The  
12 state patrol may prohibit the use of these sirens and lights on  
13 vehicles other than the vehicles described in this subsection.

14 (4) The lights described in this section shall not be mounted nor  
15 used on any vehicle other than a school bus, a private carrier bus, or  
16 an authorized emergency or law enforcement vehicle. Optical strobe  
17 light devices shall not be installed or used on any vehicle other than  
18 an emergency vehicle authorized by the state patrol ~~((or))~~, a  
19 publicly~~((-))~~owned law enforcement or emergency vehicle, a department  
20 of transportation maintenance vehicle, or a public transit vehicle.

21 (a) An "optical strobe light device" used by emergency vehicles  
22 means a strobe light device which emits an optical signal at a specific  
23 frequency to a traffic control light enabling the emergency vehicle in  
24 which the strobe light device is used to obtain the right of way at  
25 intersections.

26 (b) An "optical strobe light device" used by department of  
27 transportation maintenance vehicles means a strobe light device which  
28 emits an optical signal at a specific frequency to a traffic control  
29 light enabling the department of transportation maintenance vehicle in  
30 which the strobe light device is used to perform maintenance tests.

1       (c) An "optical strobe light device" used by public transit  
2 vehicles means a strobe light device which emits an optical signal at  
3 a specific frequency to a traffic control light enabling the public  
4 transit vehicle in which the strobe light device is used to accelerate  
5 the cycle of the traffic control light. For the purposes of this  
6 section, "public transit vehicle" means vehicles, owned by a  
7 governmental entity, with a seat capacity for twenty-five or more  
8 persons and used to provide mass transportation. Public transit  
9 vehicles operating an optical strobe light will have second degree  
10 priority to emergency vehicles when simultaneously approaching the same  
11 traffic control light.

12       (5) The use of the signal equipment described herein, except the  
13 optical strobe light devices used by public transit vehicles and  
14 department of transportation maintenance vehicles which are not used in  
15 conjunction with emergency equipment, shall impose upon drivers of  
16 other vehicles the obligation to yield right of way and stop as  
17 prescribed in RCW 46.61.210, 46.61.370, and 46.61.350.