
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1722

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Zellinsky, R. Fisher, Wood, Schmidt, Sheldon, Orr and Johanson)

Read first time 02/19/93.

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

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

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

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

12 (2) Every school bus and private carrier bus shall, in addition to
13 any other equipment and distinctive markings required by this chapter,
14 be equipped with a "stop" signal upon a background not less than
15 fourteen by eighteen inches displaying the word "stop" in letters of
16 distinctly contrasting colors not less than eight inches high, and
17 shall further be equipped with signal lamps mounted as high and as
18 widely spaced laterally as practicable, which shall be capable of
19 displaying to the front two alternately flashing red lights located at

1 the same level and to the rear two alternately flashing red lights
2 located at the same level and these lights shall have sufficient
3 intensity to be visible at five hundred feet in normal sunlight.

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

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

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

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

29 (c) An "optical strobe light device" used by public transit
30 vehicles means a strobe light device which emits an optical signal at
31 a specific frequency to a traffic control light enabling the public
32 transit vehicle in which the strobe light device is used to accelerate
33 the cycle of the traffic control light. For the purposes of this
34 section, "public transit vehicle" means vehicles, owned by a
35 governmental entity, with a seat capacity for twenty-five or more
36 persons and used to provide mass transportation. Public transit
37 vehicles operating an optical strobe light will have second degree
38 priority to emergency vehicles when simultaneously approaching the same
39 traffic control light.

1 (5) The use of the signal equipment described herein, except the
2 optical strobe light devices used by public transit vehicles and
3 department of transportation, city, or county maintenance vehicles
4 which are not used in conjunction with emergency equipment, shall
5 impose upon drivers of other vehicles the obligation to yield right of
6 way and stop as prescribed in RCW 46.61.210, 46.61.370, and 46.61.350.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The state patrol shall adopt rules to
8 implement RCW 46.37.190.

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