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HOUSE BILL 1169

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session

By Representative Simpson

Read first time 01/14/09. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to fire department vehicle use of lights designated  
2 for certain law enforcement purposes; 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 2005 c 183 s 8 are each amended to read  
5 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  
15 distinctly contrasting colors not less than eight inches high, and  
16 shall further be equipped with signal lamps mounted as high and as  
17 widely spaced laterally as practicable, which shall be capable of  
18 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)(a) 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.

8 (b) Vehicles operated by fire departments may be equipped with  
9 lights of the same color and type as designated by the state patrol  
10 under (a) of this subsection and as used by public agencies whose law  
11 enforcement duties include the authority to stop and detain motor  
12 vehicles on the public highways of the state. The lights must be  
13 visible only from the rear of the vehicle.

14 (c) The state patrol may prohibit the use of these sirens and  
15 lights on vehicles other than the vehicles described in this subsection  
16 (3).

17 (4) The lights described in this section shall not be mounted nor  
18 used on any vehicle other than a school bus, a private carrier bus, or  
19 an authorized emergency or law enforcement vehicle.

20 (5) The use of the signal equipment described in this section and  
21 RCW 46.37.670, except the signal preemption devices used by public  
22 transit vehicles and department of transportation, city, or county  
23 maintenance vehicles that are not used in conjunction with emergency  
24 equipment, shall impose upon drivers of other vehicles the obligation  
25 to yield right-of-way and stop as prescribed in RCW 46.61.210,  
26 46.61.370, and 46.61.350.

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