

SENATE BILL NO. 1156

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR BROWN.

5656S.01I

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary

AN ACT

To repeal section 304.022, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to emergency vehicles, with an existing penalty provision.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 304.022, RSMo, is repealed and one new
2 section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 304.022,
3 to read as follows:

304.022. 1. Upon the immediate approach of an
2 emergency vehicle giving audible signal by siren or while
3 having at least one lighted lamp exhibiting red light
4 visible under normal atmospheric conditions from a distance
5 of five hundred feet to the front of such vehicle or a
6 flashing blue light authorized by section 307.175, the
7 driver of every other vehicle shall yield the right-of-way
8 and shall immediately drive to a position parallel to, and
9 as far as possible to the right of, the traveled portion of
10 the highway and thereupon stop and remain in such position
11 until such emergency vehicle has passed, except when
12 otherwise directed by a police or traffic officer.

2. Upon approaching a stationary vehicle displaying
14 lighted red or red and blue lights, or a stationary vehicle
15 displaying lighted amber or amber and white lights, the
16 driver of every motor vehicle shall:

17 (1) Proceed with caution and yield the right-of-way,
18 if possible with due regard to safety and traffic

19 conditions, by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent
20 to that of the stationary vehicle, if on a roadway having at
21 least four lanes with not less than two lanes proceeding in
22 the same direction as the approaching vehicle; or

23 (2) Proceed with due caution and reduce the speed of
24 the vehicle, maintaining a safe speed for road conditions,
25 if changing lanes would be unsafe or impossible.

26 3. The motorman of every streetcar shall immediately
27 stop such car clear of any intersection and keep it in such
28 position until the emergency vehicle has passed, except as
29 otherwise directed by a police or traffic officer.

30 4. An "emergency vehicle" is a vehicle of any of the
31 following types:

32 (1) A vehicle operated by the state highway patrol,
33 the state water patrol, the Missouri capitol police, a
34 conservation agent, or a state, **county, or municipal** park
35 ranger, those vehicles operated by enforcement personnel of
36 the state highways and transportation commission, police or
37 fire department, sheriff, constable or deputy sheriff,
38 federal law enforcement officer authorized to carry firearms
39 and to make arrests for violations of the laws of the United
40 States, traffic officer, coroner, medical examiner, or
41 forensic investigator of the county medical examiner's
42 office, or by a privately owned emergency vehicle company;

43 (2) A vehicle operated as an ambulance or operated
44 commercially for the purpose of transporting emergency
45 medical supplies or organs;

46 (3) Any vehicle qualifying as an emergency vehicle
47 pursuant to section 307.175;

48 (4) Any wrecker, or tow truck or a vehicle owned and
49 operated by a public utility or public service corporation
50 while performing emergency service;

51 (5) Any vehicle transporting equipment designed to
52 extricate human beings from the wreckage of a motor vehicle;

53 (6) Any vehicle designated to perform emergency
54 functions for a civil defense or emergency management agency
55 established pursuant to the provisions of chapter 44;

56 (7) Any vehicle operated by an authorized employee of
57 the department of corrections who, as part of the employee's
58 official duties, is responding to a riot, disturbance,
59 hostage incident, escape or other critical situation where
60 there is the threat of serious physical injury or death,
61 responding to mutual aid call from another criminal justice
62 agency, or in accompanying an ambulance which is
63 transporting an offender to a medical facility;

64 (8) Any vehicle designated to perform hazardous
65 substance emergency functions established pursuant to the
66 provisions of sections 260.500 to 260.550;

67 (9) Any vehicle owned by the state highways and
68 transportation commission and operated by an authorized
69 employee of the department of transportation that is marked
70 as a department of transportation emergency response or
71 motorist assistance vehicle; or

72 (10) Any vehicle owned and operated by the civil
73 support team of the Missouri National Guard while in
74 response to or during operations involving chemical,
75 biological, or radioactive materials or in support of
76 official requests from the state of Missouri involving
77 unknown substances, hazardous materials, or as may be
78 requested by the appropriate state agency acting on behalf
79 of the governor.

80 5. (1) The driver of any vehicle referred to in
81 subsection 4 of this section shall not sound the siren
82 thereon or have the front red lights or blue lights on

83 except when such vehicle is responding to an emergency call
84 or when in pursuit of an actual or suspected law violator,
85 or when responding to, but not upon returning from, a fire.

86 (2) The driver of an emergency vehicle may:

87 (a) Park or stand irrespective of the provisions of
88 sections 304.014 to 304.025;

89 (b) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign,
90 but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe
91 operation;

92 (c) Exceed the prima facie speed limit so long as the
93 driver does not endanger life or property;

94 (d) Disregard regulations governing direction of
95 movement or turning in specified directions.

96 (3) The exemptions granted to an emergency vehicle
97 pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection shall apply
98 only when the driver of any such vehicle while in motion
99 sounds audible signal by bell, siren, or exhaust whistle as
100 may be reasonably necessary, and when the vehicle is
101 equipped with at least one lighted lamp displaying a red
102 light or blue light visible under normal atmospheric
103 conditions from a distance of five hundred feet to the front
104 of such vehicle.

105 6. No person shall purchase an emergency light as
106 described in this section without furnishing the seller of
107 such light an affidavit stating that the light will be used
108 exclusively for emergency vehicle purposes.

109 7. Violation of this section shall be deemed a class A
110 misdemeanor.

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