

1989

Session Law 89-049

Florida Senate & House of Representatives

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H 426 GENERAL BILL by Hargrett (Similar S 393)

Buses & Taxicabs/Warning Lights; permits buses & taxicabs to be equipped with special warning lights; provides for approval by H.S.M.V. Dept. Creates 316.2399; amends 316.2397. Effective Date: 10/01/89.

02/27/89 HOUSE Prefiled
02/28/89 HOUSE Referred to Highway Safety & Construction
04/04/89 HOUSE Introduced, referred to Highway Safety & Construction -HJ 47; On subcommittee agenda—Highway Safety & Construction, 04/05/89, 4:30 pm, 24-HOB
04/05/89 HOUSE Subcommittee Recommendation: Favorable
04/07/89 HOUSE On Committee agenda—Highway Safety & Construction, 04/11/89, 8:00 am, 24-HOB
04/11/89 HOUSE Preliminary Committee Action by Highway Safety & Construction: Favorable
04/14/89 HOUSE Comm. Report: Favorable by Highway Safety & Construction, placed on Calendar -HJ 232
04/25/89 HOUSE Placed on Special Order Calendar; Read second time -HJ 269
04/27/89 HOUSE Read third time; Passed; YEAS 112 NAYS 0 -HJ 281
04/28/89 SENATE In Messages
05/05/89 SENATE Received, referred to Transportation -SJ 270
05/12/89 SENATE Extension of time granted Committee Transportation
05/26/89 SENATE Extension of time granted Committee Transportation
06/02/89 SENATE Withdrawn from Transportation; Substituted for SB 393; Passed; YEAS 33 NAYS 0 -SJ 892
06/02/89 Ordered enrolled
06/13/89 Signed by Officers and presented to Governor
06/15/89 Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 89-49

NOTES: Above bill history from Division of Legislative Information's *FINAL LEGISLATIVE BILL INFORMATION, 1989 SESSIONS*. Staff Analyses for bills amended beyond final committee action may not be in accordance with the enacted law. Journal page numbers (HJ & SJ) refer to daily Journals and may not be the same as final bound Journals.

STORAGE NAME: H0426-f.hsc
DATE: July 13, 1989

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HIGHWAY SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION
FINAL STAFF ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

BILL #: HB 426
RELATING TO: Buses & Taxicabs/Warning Lights
SPONSOR(S): Representative Hargrett
EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1989
DATE BECAME LAW: June 15, 1989
CHAPTER #: 89-49, Laws of Florida
COMPANION BILL(S): SB 393
OTHER COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE: (1) None
(2)

I. SUMMARY:

This bill permits buses and taxicabs to be equipped with special warning lights to be activated by the driver when an emergency situation exists within the vehicle. Provides for approval of such lights by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

Currently, there are no provisions allowing buses and taxicabs to be equipped with special warning lights. Section 316.2397(3), F.S., allows vehicles of the fire department and fire patrol including privately owned vehicles of volunteer firemen, medical staff physicians or technicians and ambulances, while responding to an emergency in the line of duty, to show and display red lights.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

This bill would include buses and taxicabs in the provisions of s. 316.2397(3), F.S. Buses and taxicabs would be allowed to display or use flashing red lights for the purpose of warning others that a robbery, hijacking, or other emergency situation exists within the vehicle. Such devices shall be approved by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE AGENCIES/STATE FUNDS:

1. Non-recurring or First Year Start-Up Effects:

None.

2. Recurring or Annualized Continuation Effects:

None.

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

None.

4. Appropriations Consequences:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS A WHOLE:

1. Non-recurring or First Year Start-Up Effects:

None.

2. Recurring or Annualized Continuation Effects:

None.

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

1. Direct Private Sector Costs:

A pair of 5 inch special red warning lights for buses and taxicabs would cost approximately \$90 to \$110 per vehicle. Installation would cost an additional \$25 to \$35.

2. Direct Private Sector Benefits:

None.

3. Effects on Competition, Private Enterprise, and Employment Markets:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

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III. LONG RANGE CONSEQUENCES:

None.

IV. COMMENTS:

Legislative History:

A. Enacted Bill:

House Highway Safety and Construction Committee: HB 426 was reported favorably.

House Chamber: Passed.

Senate Chamber: Substituted for SB 393 and passed.

B. Companion Bill:

Senate Transportation Committee: SB 393 was reported favorably.

Senate Chamber: Laid on table and HB 426 was substituted and passed.

V. SIGNATURES:

SUBSTANTIVE COMMITTEE:

Prepared by:



Lois Watson

Staff Director:



Bill Ham

REVISED: May 17, 1989

BILL NO. SB 393

DATE: May 15, 1989

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SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

<u>ANALYST</u>	<u>STAFF DIRECTOR</u>	<u>REFERENCE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
1. <u>Meredith</u>	<u>Gargiulo</u>	1. <u>TR</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2. _____	_____	2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____	3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____	4. _____	_____

SUBJECT:

Warning Lights on
Buses and Taxicabs

BILL NO. AND SPONSOR:

SB 393 by
Senator Davis

I. SUMMARY:

A. Present Situation:

Section 316.216, F.S., provides for the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to approve or disapprove lighting devices and to issue and enforce regulations which have established the standards and specifications for the approval of such lighting devices when in use on a motor vehicle. The department, upon approving any such lamp or device, issues to the applicant a certificate of approval together with any instructions.

Section 316.2397, F.S., prohibits any vehicle or equipment from displaying a red light visible directly in front thereof except for the following:

Red lights are permitted on vehicles used by fire departments or patrols, medical staff physicians or technicians of licensed medical facilities and ambulances.

Section 316.2397, F.S., provides further that amber lights may be shown or displayed on the following vehicles:

- wreckers, public service vehicles, mosquito control fog and spray vehicles, and emergency vehicles of governmental agencies.
- escort vehicles when in actual process of escorting overdimensioned equipment, material, or buildings.
- patrol vehicles of private watchmen, guard or patrol agencies.
- road or street maintenance equipment, refuse collection vehicles, and mail carrier vehicles.

Flashing lights are permitted as a means to indicate a vehicle is turning, stopping, or disabled, for buses decelerating, braking, or idling, or for police, fire, or authorized emergency vehicles, or as authorized for use on vehicles displaying red or amber lights as provided under s. 316.2397, F.S.

Section 316.2398, F.S., provides for the use of red lights on privately owned vehicles belonging to members of a fire fighting organization or association or a medical staff physician or technician while responding to an emergency subject to specified restrictions and conditions.

B. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 316.2397(3), F.S., is amended to authorize buses and taxicabs to display or use flashing red lights.

A new s. 316.2399, F.S., is created to allow buses or taxicabs to be equipped with a maximum of two flashing lights for the purpose of warning operators of other vehicles or law enforcement agents of an emergency situation existing within the vehicle.

The devices may be mounted at the front and rear of the vehicle and would display flashing red lights which shine on the roadway under the vehicle. The devices would be activated by the operator within the buses or taxicabs and would be of the type approved by the department.

II. ECONOMIC IMPACT AND FISCAL NOTE:

A. Public:

The department estimates the cost of such lighting devices for purchase and installation would be \$300 per vehicle.

B. Government:

None.

III. COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS:

None.