



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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AMBER FLASHERS ON VEHICLES

House Bill 5291 as enrolled
Third Analysis (12-19-90)

Sponsor: Rep. James M. Middaugh
House Committee: Transportation
Senate Committee: State Affairs, Tourism &
Transportation

APPARENT PROBLEM:

The Vehicle Code specifies what types of vehicles are allowed to use amber flashing lights for safety reasons, and the list currently includes, among others, vehicles used by rural mail carriers. Other activities that require frequent stopping along roadways include trash hauling and the delivery of newspapers in rural areas. Drivers of these vehicles, however, are not authorized to use amber flashers. It has been suggested that the act be amended to permit amber flashers to be used by drivers whose work includes these activities.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the Vehicle Code to specify that the driver of a vehicle used to collect or haul trash or a person under contract to deliver newspapers or other publications by motor route in rural areas could use amber flashing lights on his or her vehicle.

MCL 257.698

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the House Fiscal Agency, the bill would not affect state budget expenditures and would have minimal fiscal impact to local governments. (12-19-90)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

Permitting amber flashers to be used on vehicles driven by rural newspaper carriers and trash haulers would enhance safety both for the drivers of these types of vehicles and for other nearby drivers. The act currently allows use of amber flashers by rural mail carriers and should be expanded to also apply to these other types of vehicles that have to stop often along the roadside while working.

Response: There has yet been no demonstrated need for allowing use of amber lights by these other vehicles. Adding other types of vehicles that can use the lights would only serve to confuse the public.