



# HOUSE BILL No. 5325

February 8 1994 Introduced by Rep Fitzgerald and referred to the Committee on Transportation

A bill to amend section 698 of Act No 300 of the Public Acts of 1949, entitled as amended

"Michigan vehicle code,

as amended by Act No 335 of the Public Acts of 1990, being section 257 698 of the Michigan Compiled Laws

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT

1 Section 1 Section 698 of Act No 300 of the Public Acts of  
2 1949, as amended by Act No 335 of the Public Acts of 1990, being  
3 section 257 698 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is amended to read  
4 as follows

5 Sec 698 (1) A motor vehicle may be equipped with not more  
6 than 2 side cowl or fender lamps which shall emit an amber or  
7 white light without glare

1 (2) A motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than 1  
2 running board courtesy lamp on each side which shall emit a white  
3 or amber light without glare

4 (3) Backing lights of red, amber or white may be mounted on  
5 the rear of a motor vehicle if the switch controlling the light  
6 is so arranged that the light may be turned on only if the vehi-  
7 cle is in reverse gear The backing lights when unlighted shall  
8 be covered or otherwise arranged so as not to reflect objection-  
9 able glare in the eyes of a driver of a vehicle approaching from  
10 the rear

11 (4) A lamp or reflector on a vehicle, other than those  
12 expressly required or permitted by this chapter, if visible from  
13 the front, shall display or reflect a white or amber light if  
14 visible from either side, shall display or reflect an amber or  
15 red light and if visible from the rear, shall display or reflect  
16 a red light except as otherwise provided by law

17 (5) The use or possession of flashing, oscillating, or  
18 rotating red blue or amber lights is prohibited except under  
19 the following circumstances

20 (a) A police vehicle OR A COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL VEHICLE  
21 shall be equipped with flashing, rotating or oscillating red or  
22 blue lights, for use in the performance of ~~police~~ THEIR  
23 RESPECTIVE duties

24 (b) A fire vehicle or ambulance available for public use or  
25 for use of the United States, the state, or any unit of the  
26 state, whether publicly or privately owned, shall be equipped

1 with flashing, rotating, or oscillating red lights and used as  
2 required for safety

3       (c) If authorized by the department of state police, a pri-  
4 vate motor vehicle owned by a volunteer or paid fire fighter, a  
5 volunteer ambulance driver, or a licensed ambulance driver or  
6 attendant, or an emergency support vehicle used exclusively for  
7 emergencies and owned and operated by a federally recognized non-  
8 profit charitable organization may be equipped with flashing,  
9 rotating, or oscillating red lights for use when responding to an  
10 emergency call if when in use the flashing, rotating, or oscil-  
11 lating red lights are mounted on the roof section of the vehicle,  
12 either as a permanent installation or by means of suction cups or  
13 magnets and are clearly visible in a 360 degree arc from a dis-  
14 tance of 500 feet when in use A person operating lights under  
15 this subdivision ~~—~~ at any time other than when responding to an  
16 emergency call ~~—~~ is guilty of a misdemeanor

17       (d) Flashing, rotating, or oscillating amber lights, placed  
18 in a position as to be visible throughout an arc of 360 degrees,  
19 shall be used by a state, county, or municipal vehicle engaged in  
20 the removal of ice, snow, or other material from the highway and  
21 in other operations designed to control ice and snow

22       (e) A vehicle used to perform public utility service, a  
23 vehicle used in the collection and hauling of refuse, an automo-  
24 bile service car or wrecker, a vehicle engaged in authorized  
25 highway repair or maintenance, a vehicle of a peace officer, a  
26 vehicle operated by a rural letter carrier or a person under  
27 contract to deliver newspapers or other publications by motor

1 route a vehicle utilized for snow removal a private security  
2 guard vehicle as authorized in subsection (7), or a farm tractor  
3 may be equipped with flashing, rotating, or oscillating amber  
4 lights However, a wrecker may be equipped with flashing, rotat-  
5 ing, or oscillating red lights which shall be activated only when  
6 the wrecker is engaged in removing or assisting a vehicle at the  
7 scene of a traffic accident or disablement The flashing, rotat-  
8 ing, or oscillating amber lights shall not be activated except in  
9 those circumstances that the warning produced by the lights is  
10 required for public safety

11 (f) A police vehicle, an ambulance, A COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL  
12 VEHICLE, or a fire vehicle may display a flashing, rotating, or  
13 oscillating white light in conjunction with an authorized emer-  
14 gency light as prescribed in this section

15 (g) A private motor vehicle of a physician responding to an  
16 emergency call may be equipped with and the physician may use  
17 flashing, rotating, or oscillating red lights mounted on the roof  
18 section of the vehicle either as a permanent installation or by  
19 means of magnets or suction cups and clearly visible in a 360  
20 degree arc from a distance of 500 feet when in use The physi-  
21 cian shall first obtain written authorization from the county  
22 sheriff

23 (h) A person engaged in the manufacture, sale, or repair of  
24 flashing, rotating or oscillating lights governed by this sub-  
25 section may possess the lights for the purpose of employment, but  
26 shall not activate the lights upon the highway unless authorized  
27 to do so under subsection (6)

1 (6) A person shall not sell loan, or otherwise furnish a  
2 flashing, rotating, or oscillating blue or red light designed  
3 primarily for installation on an authorized emergency vehicle to  
4 a person except a police officer, sheriff deputy sheriff, autho-  
5 rized physician volunteer or paid fire fighter, volunteer ambu-  
6 lance driver, licensed ambulance driver or attendant of the  
7 state, a county or municipality within the state, a person  
8 engaged in the business of operating an ambulance or wrecker  
9 service, or a federally recognized nonprofit charitable organiza-  
10 tion which owns and operates an emergency support vehicle used  
11 exclusively for emergencies This subsection does not prohibit  
12 an authorized vehicle, equipped with flashing, rotating, or  
13 oscillating blue or red lights, from being operated by a person  
14 other than a person described in this section if the person  
15 receives authorization to operate the emergency vehicle from a  
16 police officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff, authorized physician,  
17 volunteer or paid fire fighter, volunteer ambulance driver,  
18 licensed ambulance driver or attendant, a person operating an  
19 ambulance or wrecker service, or a federally recognized nonprofit  
20 charitable organization which owns and operates an emergency sup-  
21 port vehicle used exclusively for emergencies, except that the  
22 authorization shall not permit the person to operate lights as  
23 described in subsection (5)(a), (b), (c) (f) or (g), or to  
24 exercise the privileges described in section 603 A person who  
25 operates an authorized emergency vehicle in violation of the  
26 terms of an authorization is guilty of a misdemeanor

1       (7) A private motor vehicle of a security guard agency or  
2 alarm company licensed pursuant to THE PRIVATE SECURITY GUARD ACT  
3 OF 1968, Act No 330 of the Public Acts of 1968, being sections  
4 338 1051 to 338 1085 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, may display  
5 flashing, rotating, or oscillating amber lights The flashing,  
6 rotating, or oscillating amber lights shall not be activated on a  
7 public highway when a vehicle is in motion

8       (8) This section shall not be construed to prohibit,  
9 restrict or limit the use of lights authorized or required under  
10 sections 697 697a and 698a

11       (9) A person who violates subsection (1), (2), (3) or (4)  
12 is responsible for a civil infraction