

SENATE No. 1589

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the use of green lights for municipal emergency management vehicles.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Bruce E. Tarr

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Essex and Middlesex

SENATE No. 1589

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1589) of Bruce E. Tarr for legislation relative to the use of green lights for municipal emergency management vehicles. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1458 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to the use of green lights for municipal emergency management vehicles.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 90 as appearing in the 2020 official edition is hereby amended by
2 inserting after section 7E the following new section: 7E1/2.. No motor vehicle operated pursuant
3 to section seven other than municipal emergency management vehicles shall mount or display a
4 flashing, rotating or oscillating green light in any direction, except as herein provided; provided,
5 however, that nothing in this section shall prohibit an official police vehicle from displaying a
6 flashing, rotating or oscillating red light in the opposite direction in which the vehicle is
7 proceeding or prohibit fire apparatus from displaying a flashing, rotating or oscillating blue light
8 in the opposite direction in which the vehicle is proceeding.

9 A vehicle owned or operated by the municipal emergency management as appointed by
10 the municipal governing body may have mounted thereon flashing, rotating or oscillating green

11 lights. Such lights shall only be displayed when such owner or operator is proceeding to an
12 emergency or in response to an alarm and when the official duty of such owner or operator
13 requires them to proceed to said emergency or to respond to said alarm, and at no other time.

14 No such green light shall be mounted or displayed on such vehicle until proper
15 application has been made to the registrar by the emergency management director as appointed
16 by the municipalities governing body and a written permit has been issued and delivered to the
17 owner and operator. In the event that the operator is not the registered owner of the vehicle, no
18 permit shall be issued until said owner forwards to the registrar a written statement certifying
19 that he has knowledge that such red light will be mounted and displayed on said vehicle.

20 Any person operating a vehicle upon which flashing, rotating or oscillating green lights
21 herein authorized are mounted shall have the permit for said lights upon their person or in the
22 vehicle in some easily accessible place. Upon termination of the duties which warranted the
23 issuance of the permit, the mayor or chair of the board of selectmen shall immediately notify the
24 registrar who shall forthwith revoke such green light permit. Upon the written request of the
25 mayor or board of selectmen of the municipality in which such permitted vehicle is registered,
26 the registrar may revoke such permit. The registrar shall revoke such permit for the unauthorized
27 use of such green lights and the owner and operator shall be subject to a fine as hereinafter
28 provided.

29 Upon revocation, the registrar of motor vehicles shall notify forthwith the owner and
30 operator of the vehicle for which such permit was issued and the head of the police department
31 and fire department of the town in which his original permit was issued.

32 The registrar may also make such rules and regulations governing or prohibiting the
33 display of such other lights on motor vehicles as he may deem necessary for public safety.

34 Any person who violates any provision of this section for which a penalty is not
35 otherwise provided shall be subject to a fine of not less than one hundred dollars, nor more than
36 three hundred dollars.