

2025 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1241

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1241
1/24/2025

Relating to special restrictions on lamps on motor vehicles or equipment.

11:04 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman D. Ruby, Vice Chairman Grueneich, Representatives Christianson, Dressler, Finley-DeVile, Frelich, Hendrix, Johnston, Kasper, Koppelman, Maki, Morton, Osowski, Schatz

Discussion Topics:

- Funeral Processions
- Flashing light on lead vehicle for safety
- Voluntary legislature
- Color other than for emergency vehicle use
- Recommendation using yellow as the color

11:04 a.m. Representative Satrom, District 12, ND Legislative Assembly, introduced HB 1241.

11:09 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby closed the hearing.

11:10 a.m. Representative Koppelman moved a Do Pass.

11:10 a.m. Representative Morton seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Craig Headland	Y
Representative Jared Hagert	Y
Representative Dick Anderson	Y
Representative Jason Dockter	Y
Representative Ty Dressler	Y
Representative Jim Grueneich	Y
Representative Mike Motschenbacher	Y
Representative Dennis Nehring	Y
Representative Jeremy Olson	Y
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Nathan Toman	Y
Representative Austin Foss	Y
Representative Zachary Ista	Y

11:12 a.m. Motion passed 14-0-0.

11:12 a.m. Representative Dressler will carry the bill.

11:12 a.m. Chairman D. Ruby closed the meeting.

Janae Pinks, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1241 ([25.0586.01000](#))

Transportation Committee (Rep. D. Ruby, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1241 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2025 SENATE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1241

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

HB 1241
2/21/2025

Relating to special restrictions on lamps on motor vehicles or equipment.

11:15 a.m. Chairman Clemens opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Clemens, Vice Chairwoman Cory, Senator Hogan, Senator Klein, Senator Paulson, Senator Rummel

Discussion Topics:

- Amendment regarding exclusion of tow truck vehicles
- Clarification of lighting color on vehicles

11:15 a.m. Representative Satrom, District 12, introduced HB 1241 and testified in favor.

11:18 a.m. Brian Barrett, Lobbyist, North Dakota Towing Association, testified neutral and submitted testimony #38265.

11:21 a.m. Aaron Hummel, Chief of Staff, ND Highway Patrol, testified neutral.

11:37 a.m. Chairman Clemens closed the hearing.

Chance Anderson, Committee Clerk

Testimony
HB1241
Senate Transportation Committee
February 21st 2025
Brian Barrett
ND Towing Association

Chairman Clemens and members of the Senate Transportation Committee my name is Brian Barrett and I represent the ND Towing Association. Although I'm here today in a neutral capacity on HB1241, I would like to offer an amendment relating to emergency vehicles warning lamps.

The amendment I'm proposing allows the use of flashing blue lights on a vehicle owned by a commercial towing company used for towing purposes. Prior to introducing this amendment, it was shared with the ND Highway Patrol, and they do not oppose the language or the concept.

This amendment would allow flashing blue lights when the tow truck is stopped or parked alongside a road or highway. The use of flashing blue lights would be prohibited during the transportation process.

One of the major benefits of flashing blue lights is that they are highly visible at night and during inclement weather. In addition, studies show an increase in caution when flashing blue lights are visible. It seems that amber colored lights "blend" with other lights making traffic less responsive. Nationally, 1 tow truck driver is killed every 6 days while operating alongside a road or highway.

This amendment is proposed solely for the safety of the tow truck operator as we believe it can lessen the chance of a tragic event.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this amendment.

Sincerely,
Brian Barrett,
ND Towing Association

25.0586.01000

Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1241

Introduced by
Representatives Satrom, Ostlie
Senator Conley

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 39-21-26 of the North Dakota Century Code; relating to special restrictions on lamps on motor vehicles or equipment.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA: SECTION 1.
AMENDMENT.

Section 1. Amendment. Section 39-21-26 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-21-26. Special restrictions on lamps.

1. Any lighted lamp or illuminating device ~~upon~~ on a motor vehicle, other than headlamps, spot lamps, auxiliary lamps, flashing turn signals, emergency vehicle warning lamps and schoolbus warning lamps, which projects a beam of light of an intensity greater than three hundred candlepower must be ~~so~~ directed so that no part of the high-intensity portion of the beam will strike the level of the roadway on which the vehicle stands at a distance of more than seventy-five feet [22.86 meters] from the vehicle.

2. ~~No~~ A person may not drive or move any vehicle or equipment ~~upon~~ on any highway with ~~any~~ a lamp or device ~~thereon~~ displaying a red, or green light visible from directly in front of the center thereof of the vehicle or equipment. This section does not apply to ~~any~~ a vehicle upon which a red light visible from the front is expressly authorized or required by this chapter.

3. Flashing lights are prohibited except on an authorized:

- a. An authorized emergency vehicle, ~~schoolbus, snow removal equipment;~~
- b. A schoolbus;
- c. Snow - removal equipment;
- d. A vehicle owned by a funeral home while used for the purpose of escorting a funeral procession; or ~~on any~~

e. Any vehicle as a means of indicating a right or left turn, or the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, overtaking, or passing.

d. Vehicle owned by a commercial towing company specifically used for towing purposes. Flashing Blue lights can be activated when the tow vehicle is stopped or parked alongside a road or highway. The use of flashing blue lights is prohibited during the transportation process or when traveling on a road or highway.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

HB 1241
9:22AM
3/13/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 39-21-26 of the North Dakota Century Code; relating to special restrictions on lamps on motor vehicles or equipment.

9:22 a.m. Chairman Clemens opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Clemens, Vice Chairwoman Cory, Senator Hogan, Senator Klein, Senator Paulson, Senator Rummel

Discussion Topics:

- Class A and B vehicles

9:24 a.m. Frank Senn, Police Chief, City of Beulah Police Department, answered committee questions.

9:28 a.m. Chairman Clemens closed the hearing.

Chance Anderson, Committee Clerk

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

HB 1241 10:00AM
3/13/2025

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 39-21-26 of the North Dakota Century Code; relating to special restrictions on lamps on motor vehicles or equipment.

10:00 a.m. Vice Chairwoman Cory opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Clemens, Vice Chairwoman Cory, Senator Hogan, Senator Klein, Senator Paulson, Senator Rummel

Discussion Topics:

- Classes of emergency vehicles

10:00 a.m. Tom Iverson, Chief of operations, NDHP, answered committee questions.

10:02 a.m. Senator Klein introduced a proposed amendment, testified in favor and submitted testimony #41297.

10:03 a.m. Senator Klein moved to adopt amendment LC#25.0586.01001.

10:03 a.m. Senator Paulson seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator David A. Clemens	AB
Senator Claire Cory	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Jerry Klein	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Dean Rummel	Y

Motion passed 5-0-1.

10:04 a.m. Senator Klein moved a Do Pass as Amended.

10:04 a.m. Senator Paulson seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator David A. Clemens	AB
Senator Claire Cory	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Jerry Klein	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Dean Rummel	Y

Senate Transportation Committee
HB 1241
March 13, 2025
Page 2

Motion passed 5-0-1.

Senator Klein will carry the bill.

10:05 a.m. Vice Chairwoman Cory closed the hearing.

Chance Anderson, Committee Clerk

CO
3/13/25
lofz

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1241

Introduced by

Representatives Satrom, Ostlie

Senator Conley

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact ~~section~~sections 39-10-03.1 and 39-21-26 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to class B authorized emergency vehicles and special
3 restrictions on lamps on motor vehicles or equipment.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 39-10-03.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **39-10-03.1. Class B authorized emergency vehicles.**

- 8 1. The driver of a class B authorized emergency vehicle may:
- 9 a. Park or stand, irrespective of the provisions of this chapter.
- 10 b. Exceed the speed limit so long as the driver does not endanger life or property
- 11 during the time of a local or national disaster.
- 12 c. Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified
- 13 directions.
- 14 2. The exceptions granted in this section to a class B authorized emergency vehicle
- 15 apply only when the authorized emergency vehicle is displaying an amber and white
- 16 light visible under normal atmospheric conditions for a distance of five hundred feet
- 17 [152.4 meters] in any direction, and:
- 18 a. When it is necessary for the authorized emergency vehicle to use these
- 19 exemptions for the immediate protection of life or property;

- b. When an authorized emergency vehicle is stopped on a highway for the purpose of performing a duty as required of the driver; or
- c. When traveling at a speed slower than the normal flow of traffic.

3. A class B authorized emergency vehicle may display a flashing blue light when the vehicle is stopped on a highway. A class B authorized emergency vehicle may not display a flashing blue light when transporting another vehicle or when traveling on a highway.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 39-21-26 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

39-21-26. Special restrictions on lamps.

1. Any lighted lamp or illuminating device ~~upon~~ on a motor vehicle, other than headlamps, spot lamps, auxiliary lamps, flashing turn signals, emergency vehicle warning lamps and schoolbus warning lamps, which projects a beam of light of an intensity greater than three hundred candlepower must be ~~so~~ directed so that no part of the high-intensity portion of the beam will strike the level of the roadway on which the vehicle stands at a distance of more than seventy-five feet [22.86 meters] from the vehicle.
2. ~~No~~A person may not drive or move any vehicle or equipment ~~upon~~ on any highway with ~~any~~a lamp or device ~~thereon~~ displaying a red or green light visible from directly in front of the center ~~thereof~~of the vehicle or equipment. This section does not apply to ~~any~~a vehicle upon which a red light visible from the front is expressly authorized or required by this chapter.
3. Flashing lights are prohibited except on ~~an~~authorized:
 - a. An authorized emergency vehicle, ~~schoolbus, snow-removal equipment~~;
 - b. A schoolbus;
 - c. Snow-removal equipment;
 - d. A vehicle owned by a funeral home, which may display a flashing purple light only while used for the purpose of escorting a funeral procession; or ~~on any~~
 - e. Any vehicle as a means of indicating a right or left turn, or the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, overtaking, or passing.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1241**

Transportation Committee (Sen. Clemens, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0586.01001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1241 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

25.0586.01001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Senator Klein
March 11, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1241

Introduced by

Representatives Satrom, Ostlie

Senator Conley

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact ~~section~~sections 39-10-03.1 and 39-21-26 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to class B authorized emergency vehicles and special
3 restrictions on lamps on motor vehicles or equipment.

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11 during the time of a local or national disaster.
 - 12 c. Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified
13 directions.
- 14 2. The exceptions granted in this section to a class B authorized emergency vehicle
15 apply only when the authorized emergency vehicle is displaying an amber and white
16 light visible under normal atmospheric conditions for a distance of five hundred feet
17 [152.4 meters] in any direction, and:
 - 18 a. When it is necessary for the authorized emergency vehicle to use these
19 exemptions for the immediate protection of life or property;

b. When an authorized emergency vehicle is stopped on a highway for the purpose of performing a duty as required of the driver; or

c. When traveling at a speed slower than the normal flow of traffic.

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 - e. Any vehicle as a means of indicating a right or left turn, or the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring unusual care in approaching, overtaking, or passing.