

SENATE BILL NO. 337—SENATOR O'DONNELL

MARCH 8, 1999

Referred to Committee on Transportation

SUMMARY—Revises provisions concerning use of siren by emergency vehicle. (BDR 43-860)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State or on Industrial Insurance: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; making optional the use of a siren by an emergency vehicle; specifically authorizing an emergency vehicle to operate warning lamps without sounding the siren; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE
AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 **Section 1.** NRS 484.261 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 484.261 1. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle or an
3 official vehicle of a regulatory agency, when responding to an emergency
4 call or when in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or when
5 responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, or a vehicle
6 escorting a funeral procession, may:
7 (a) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing
8 down as may be necessary for safe operation.
9 (b) Exceed any speed limits so long as he does not endanger life or
10 property, except that a vehicle escorting a funeral procession may not
11 exceed the speed limit by more than 15 miles per hour to overtake the
12 procession and direct traffic at the next intersection.
13 (c) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in
14 specified directions. The driver of a vehicle escorting a funeral procession
15 may direct the movements of the vehicles in ***the*** procession in a similar
16 manner and may direct the movements of other vehicles.
17 2. The privileges granted in subsection 1 apply only when the vehicle
18 is making use of ~~audible~~ :

1 **(a) Audible** and visual signals ; **or**
2 **(b) Visual signals only,**
3 as required by law.

4 3. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle or an official vehicle
5 of a regulatory agency may park or stand without regard to the provisions
6 of this chapter if he makes use of a warning lamp.

7 4. The provisions of this section do not relieve the driver from the duty
8 to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and do not protect the
9 driver from the consequences of his reckless disregard for the safety of
10 others.

11 **Sec. 2.** NRS 484.607 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 484.607 1. Every motor vehicle when operated upon a highway must
13 be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting
14 sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 200
15 feet, but the horn or other warning device must not emit an unreasonably
16 loud or harsh sound or a whistle.

17 2. A person driving a motor vehicle shall, when reasonably necessary
18 to ensure safe operation, give audible warning with his horn, but shall not
19 otherwise use the horn when upon a highway.

20 3. A vehicle must not be equipped with, and a person shall not use
21 upon a vehicle, a siren, whistle or bell, except as otherwise provided in this
22 chapter.

23 4. It is permissible, but not required, to equip a vehicle with a theft
24 alarm which is arranged so that it cannot be used by the driver as an
25 ordinary warning signal.

26 5. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with a siren,
27 whistle or bell, capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions
28 from a distance of not less than 500 feet, but the siren must not be used
29 except when the vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call or in
30 the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, in which
31 event the driver of the vehicle ~~{shall}~~ **may** sound the siren ~~{when necessary}~~
32 to warn pedestrians and other drivers of his approach. **A driver of an**
33 **emergency vehicle may operate the vehicle's warning lamps without**
34 **sounding the siren.**