

Senate Bill No. 521—Committee on Transportation

CHAPTER.....

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; providing that a driver of an emergency vehicle who operates the vehicle's warning lamps without sounding the siren shall be deemed to have adequately warned pedestrians and other drivers of his approach; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

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

Section 1. NRS 484.261 is hereby amended to read as follows:

484.261 1. The driver of an authorized emergency vehicle or an official vehicle of a regulatory agency, when responding to an emergency call or when in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law or when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm, or a vehicle escorting a funeral procession, may:

(a) Proceed past a red or stop signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation.

(b) Exceed any speed limits so long as he does not endanger life or property, except that a vehicle escorting a funeral procession may not exceed the speed limit by more than 15 miles per hour to overtake the procession and direct traffic at the next intersection.

(c) Disregard regulations governing direction of movement or turning in specified directions. The driver of a vehicle escorting a funeral procession may direct the movements of the vehicles in *the* procession in a similar manner and may direct the movements of other vehicles.

2. The privileges granted in subsection 1 apply only when the vehicle is making use of ~~audible~~:

(a) Audible and visual signals ; or

(b) Visual signals only,

as required by law.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. *A driver of an emergency vehicle who operates the vehicle's warning lamps without sounding the siren shall be deemed to have adequately warned pedestrians and other drivers of his approach for the purpose of determining whether the driver met the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons pursuant to NRS 484.261.*