

Public Chapter 299

SENATE BILL NO. 426

By Dixon

Substituted for: House Bill No. 557

By Pleasant, Ulysses Jones, Miller, Lois DeBerry, Bowers, Brooks, Cooper, John DeBerry,
Larry Turner, Chumney, Eckles

AN ACT To amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 9, relative to colored lights on motor vehicles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-9-402(a)(1), is amended by adding the following language at the end of the subdivision:

No non-emergency vehicle shall operate or install emergency flashing light systems such as strobe, wig-wag, or other flashing lights within the headlight assembly or grill area of the vehicle.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-9-402(b)(1), is amended by adding the following language at the end of the subdivision:

No non-emergency vehicle shall operate or install emergency flashing light systems such as strobe, wig-wag, or other flashing lights in tail light lamp, stoplight area, or factory installed emergency flasher and backup light area.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-9-402(d)(1), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety, and by substituting instead the following language:

No vehicle operated in this state shall be equipped with any flashing red or white light or any combination of red or white lights which displays to the front of such vehicle except school buses, a passenger motor vehicle operated by a rural mail carrier of the United States Postal Service while performing the duties of a rural letter carrier, authorized law enforcement vehicles only when used in combination with a flashing blue light, and emergency vehicles used in firefighting, including ambulances, emergency vehicles used in firefighting which are owned or operated by the Division of Forestry, firefighting vehicles, rescue vehicles, privately owned vehicles of regular or volunteer firefighters certified in §55-9-201(c), or other emergency vehicles used in firefighting owned, operated, or subsidized by the governing body of any county or municipality.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-9-402(d)(2), is amended by deleting the following language:

(A) A red light visibar type with P.A. system;

- (B) A red oscillating type light; and
- (C) Blinking red lights, front and rear.

and by substituting instead the following language:

- (A) A red or red/white visibar type with P.A. system;
- (B) A red or red/white oscillating type light; and
- (C) Blinking red or red/white lights, front and rear.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-9-402(d)(3), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety, and by substituting instead the following language:

(3) Any vehicle, other than a passenger motor vehicle operated by a rural mail carrier of the United States Postal Service while performing the duties of a rural letter carrier or an emergency vehicle authorized by this section to display flashing red or red/white lights, or authorized law enforcement vehicles using red, white, and blue lights in combination, which displays any such lights shall be considered in violation of this provision.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-9-201(c)(2), is amended by deleting the following figures:

<u>not less than</u> 100,000	<u>not more than</u> 200,000
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and by substituting instead the figures:

<u>not less than</u> 83,300 85,725 143,900	<u>not more than</u> 83,400 85,825 144,000
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SECTION 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997, the public welfare requiring it.