

SENATE BILL 3011
By Burchett

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 9, relative to lighting of motor vehicles.

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

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

(1) Every motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, road roller, road machinery or farm tractor shall be equipped with at least two (2) and not more than four (4) headlights, white or amber in color, with at least one (1) on each side of the front of the motor vehicle. 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. No non-emergency vehicle shall operate or install any light or lighting system of a color not authorized by this subdivision within the headlight assembly or grill area of the vehicle.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-9-402(b), is amended by deleting subdivision (1) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

(1) Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with two (2) red tail lamps and two (2) red stoplights on the rear of such vehicle, and one (1) tail lamp and one (1) stoplight shall be on each side, and a sufficient number of white reverse lights when the vehicle is in reverse, except that passenger cars manufactured or assembled prior to January 1, 1939, trucks manufactured or assembled prior to January 1, 1968, and motorcycles and motor-driven cycles shall have at least one (1) red tail lamp and one (1) red stoplight. 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. No non-emergency vehicle shall operate or install any light or lighting system of a color not authorized by this subdivision in the tail light lamp, stoplight area, or factory installed emergency flasher and backup light area.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-9-402(c), is amended by designating the existing language as subdivision (1) and by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivision (2):

(2)

(A) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the use of factory installed emergency flashers of amber color when such lights are employed during the course of an emergency.

(B) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the use of turn signals of amber color.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002, the public welfare requiring it.