

1983 Assembly Bill 119

Date of enactment: **October 26, 1983**  
Date of publication: **November 2, 1983**

**1983 Wisconsin Act 56**

AN ACT *to amend* 346.03 (3), 346.95 (3) and 347.25 (1); and *to create* 346.94 (14) and 347.25 (1m), (1s) and (4) of the statutes, *relating to* warning lights on police vehicles and providing a penalty.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. 346.03 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

346.03 (3) The exemption granted the operator of an authorized emergency vehicle by sub. (2) (a) applies only when the operator of ~~such~~ the vehicle is giving visual signal by means of at least one flashing, oscillating or rotating red light except that the visual signal given by a marked police vehicle may be by means of a blue light and a red light which are flashing, oscillating or rotating. The exemptions granted by sub. (2) (b), (c) and (d) apply only when the operator of the emergency vehicle is giving both such visual

signal and also an audible signal by means of a siren or exhaust whistle, except as otherwise provided in sub. (4).

SECTION 2. 346.94 (14) of the statutes is created to read:

346.94 (14) **USE OF FLASHING BLUE LIGHTS ALONG HIGHWAYS.** Except as provided in ss. 346.03 (3) and 347.25 (1m) and (1s), no person may maintain or operate any device equipped with a flashing, oscillating or rotating blue light within 100 feet of a highway if the light is visible from the highway and if the department or the local authority responsible for maintaining the highway determines that motorists would believe the light was the warning light of a police vehicle. This subsection does not apply to airport lights.

SECTION 3. 346.95 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

346.95 (3) Any person violating s. 346.94 (5), (6) ~~or~~, (6m) or (14) shall be required to forfeit \$50 for each offense.

SECTION 4. 347.25 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

347.25 (1) ~~An~~ Except as provided in subs. (1m) (a) and (1s), an authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with one or more flashing, oscillating or rotating red lights, except that ambulances and fire department equipment may be equipped with red or red and white lights, and shall be so equipped when the operator thereof is exercising the privileges granted by s. 346.03. ~~Such~~ The lights shall be so designed and mounted as to be plainly visible and understandable from a distance of 500 feet both during normal sunlight and during hours of darkness. No operator of an authorized emergency vehicle may use ~~such~~ the warning lights except when responding to an emergency call or when in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm or when necessarily parked on a highway in a position which is likely to be hazardous to traffic using the highway.

SECTION 5. 347.25 (1m), (1s) and (4) of the statutes are created to read:

347.25 (1m) (a) A marked police vehicle under s. 340.01 (3) (a) may be equipped with a blue light and a red light which are flashing, oscillating or rotating.

(b) If the vehicle is so equipped, the lights shall be illuminated when the operator of the police vehicle is exercising the privileges granted under s. 346.03. The blue light shall be mounted on the passenger side of the vehicle and the red light shall be mounted on the driver side of the vehicle. The lights shall be designed and mounted so as to be plainly visible and understandable from a distance of 500 feet during normal sunlight and during hours of darkness. No operator of a police vehicle may use the warning lights except when responding to an emergency call or when in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, when responding to but not upon returning from a fire alarm or when necessarily parked on a highway in a position which is likely to be hazardous to traffic using the highway.

(c) If the state or any local authority intends to equip its police vehicles as authorized under par. (a), the state or the local authority shall give notice of its intent as a class 2 notice under ch. 985 at least 90 days before so equipping the first vehicle.

(1s) A vehicle in use by a fire department as a command post at the site of an emergency call may be equipped with a blue light which is flashing, oscillating or rotating.

(4) No vehicle may be equipped with or display any blue colored light or lamp unless the vehicle is used in police work authorized by the state or a political subdivision of the state or is used by a fire department as authorized under sub. (1s)

SECTION 6. **Effective dates.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), this act takes effect on the day following publication.

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(2) The treatment of sections 346.03 (3), 346.94 (14), 346.95 (3) and 347.25 (1), (1m) (a) and (b) and (4) of the statutes takes effect on the first day of the 6th month commencing after its publication.

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