AN ACT to create 347.25 (1w) of the statutes; relating to: warning lamps on community service officer vehicles.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill provides that a publicly owned or leased vehicle that is displaying public official registration plates, is marked as a community service officer vehicle, and is being operated in the course of official business by a community service officer may be equipped with one or more flashing, oscillating, or rotating red warning lights that may be used only when the vehicle is stationary and being used to direct traffic or alert motorists. The bill defines “community service officer” as an individual who is not a sworn law enforcement officer and who supports basic law enforcement operations in an official capacity. Under current law, an authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with one or more flashing, oscillating, or rotating red lights.

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

SECTION 1. 347.25 (1w) of the statutes is created to read:

347.25 (1w) (a) In this subsection, “community service officer” means an individual who is not a sworn law enforcement officer and who supports basic law enforcement operations in an official capacity.
(b) Publicly owned or leased vehicles registered under s. 341.26 (2m) (am) that are displaying registration plates with the word “Official” and a star symbol, marked as community service officer vehicles, and being operated in the course of official business by a community service officer may be equipped with one or more flashing, oscillating, or rotating red warning lights. No operator of a community service officer vehicle may use the warning lights except when the vehicle is stationary and being used to direct traffic or alert motorists to a hazard or emergency situation.

(END)