

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1310

2007 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1310

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1310

House Transportation Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 01-18-2007

Recorder Job Number: 1353

Committee Clerk Signature

Jisa M Thomas

Minutes:

Chairman Weisz opened the hearing on HB 1310. All Representatives were present. HB 1310 relates to Class A authorized emergency vehicle lights.

Rep. Gruchalla introduced the bill.

Rep. Gruchalla: HB 1310 allows a law enforcement vehicle that is otherwise Class A emergency vehicle to display a flashing blue light in addition to and under the same condition to the other colors allowing the subdivision. Right now, our Class A emergency vehicle is a red or red and white light. Approximately half of the police vehicles in the state already use both blue and red lights and the top lights are on their vehicles. This change will bring ND in line with the nationally trend toward blue lights on police vehicles. In some states now, blue lights are entirely what they use on police vehicles. It's a safety issue also because under some atmospheric conditions, blue may be more visible to the human eye than to the red or white light. There are some standards that require law enforcement vehicles to be equipped with red and blue lights. Therefore we see police vehicles on Indian Reservations that they are already using both blue and red lights. This change will also clear up any confusion that may arise with the public when dealing with police vehicles.

Rep. Ruby: How would this conflict with people who are on volunteer fire departments or first responders who are allowed to have a blue light?

Rep. Gruchalla: The way this section would be worded, it wouldn't change the way they are treated right now.

Rep. Ruby: Will there be some confusion with the public when they see a vehicle with a blue light?

Rep. Gruchalla: I think it would probably lessen the confusion, right now if you see red and blue lights all over the place, so this would just make this an acceptable practice.

Rep. Thorpe: What brought this up?

Rep. Gruchalla: My relationship with the law enforcement community, a lot of them are using the red and blue lights and when there is some confusion on whether or not this is acceptable or even legal. The blue light may be acceptable for civil defense emergencies and that is kind of the way to get around it but this just clears it up and makes it an acceptable practice.

John Olson, representing the ND peace officers association, spoke in support of the bill.

Olson: We are in favor of this bill. Thank you.

Officer David Swenson of the Valley City Police Department spoke in support of the bill.

Officer Swenson: We are in favor of HB 1310. The reason why we are in favor of this bill is a safety issue. Our department right now is presently members of our local emergency disaster unit, so we do use and have blue lights on our squad cars. About a year ago on the interstate we had a bad accident where we had snowy conditions, icy roads and after the driver of the vehicle was placed in the ambulance, the trooper and I were walking back up to our vehicles, which were parked side by side and he commented that his new light bar wasn't as bright as ours and you could see the blue so much better with the atmospheric conditions. I explained to

him we have the same light bar, except we have half blue and half red. We encourage you to support this bill.

There were no questions from the committee.

Chief Dean Ross of the VCPD spoke in support of this bill.

Chief Ross: One other reason I support this bill is so that there is language in state law so we don't have to circumvent it by going around in the civil defense categorization and so I think just for clarity. Visibility is one thing. A lot of agencies are doing it already whether that be right or wrong.

There were no further questions and there was no opposition to the bill. Chairman Weisz closed the hearing. No action was taken at this time.

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB1310

House Transportation Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 01-18-2007

Recorder Job Number: 1360

Committee Clerk Signature

Lise M Thomas

Minutes:

Chairman Weisz allowed committee discussion on HB 1310. Representative Kelsch was absent. HB 1310 relates to Class A authorized emergency vehicle lights.

Rep. Delmore moved a DO PASS. Rep. Gruchalla seconded.

Chairman Weisz: I had been told that some of the law enforcement agencies were going to oppose it, but obviously, it's in the testimony that wasn't the case. Some of the local law enforcement wanted it, but nobody came, so nobody had a problem with it. Any further discussion?

There was no further discussion.

Roll Call Vote: 12 yes. 0 no. 1 absent.

Carrier: Rep. Schmidt

Date: 1-18-07
Roll Call Vote #: HB 1310

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. _____

House Transportation Committee _____

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken DO PASS

Motion Made By Rep. Delmore Seconded By Rep. Gruchalla

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Weisz	✓		Rep. Delmore	✓	
Vice Chairman Ruby	✓		Rep. Gruchalla	✓	
Rep. Dosch	✓		Rep. Myxter	✓	
Rep. Kelsch			Rep. Schmidt	✓	
Rep. Owens	✓		Rep. Thorpe	✓	
Rep. Price	✓				
Rep. Sukut	✓				
Rep. Vigesaa	✓				

Total Yes 12 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. Schmidt

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1310: Transportation Committee (Rep. Welsz, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1310 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2007 SENATE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1310

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1310

Senate Transportation Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 2, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 4239

Committee Clerk Signature

Jody Hauze

Minutes:

Senator Gary Lee opened the hearing on HB 1310 relating to class A authorized emergency vehicle lights.

Representative Gruchalla introduced the bill and testified in favor of it. His written testimony is enclosed. He stated that some of his witnesses were unable to attend because of weather and bad roads.

Senator Andrist asked if an officer was using a blue flashing light that would not signal a vehicle to stop.

Rep. Gruchalla said if he was using just the blue light right now he would be in violation of the section but if the bill passes a blue light would not mean a violation. For a violation it is a red or white light. The blue would not be used in enforcement.

Senator Potter said that in Rep. Gruchalla's testimony approximately half of the Police vehicles in the state already use both red and blue lights on their Police vehicles. He asked, "Why the bill?"

Rep. Gruchalla said that the century code does not mention blue lights and the bill is necessary so police vehicles can use the blue lights legally. Rep. Gruchalla said an officer

from Valley City was going to testify on the use of the blue lights. The blue light is good in snow fog, it is more visible. It is a safety issue.

Rep. Ruby testified in support of HB 1310. He stated that different states have gone to blue because of safety. Different situations require different colors. He stated that we have to give our highway patrol the tools they need to do their job.

Senator Lee asked for any additional testimony. Hearing none, Senator Lee closed the hearing on HB 1310.

Senator Nething moved a Do Pass on HB 1310.

Senator Fiebiger seconded the motion.

The clerk called the roll 6-0-0.

Senator Andrist will carry the bill.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 2, 2007 10:18 a.m.

Module No: SR-40-4295
Carrier: Andrist
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1310: Transportation Committee (Sen. G. Lee, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1310 was placed on the
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

HB 1310

REPRESENTATIVE ED GRUCHALLA

Dist 45 Fargo

Testimony on HB1310, a bill to amend and reenact section 39-10-03 of the NDCC
Relating to Class A authorized emergency vehicle lighting.

1. This bill will **allow** a Law Enforcement vehicle that is otherwise a Class A Emergency vehicle to display a flashing blue light in addition to and under the same conditions as the other colors allowed in the subdivision.
2. Approximately half of the Police vehicles in the state already use both red and Blue lights on their Police vehicles.
3. This change will bring North Dakota in line with the national trend toward blue lights on Police vehicles.
4. Under some atmospheric conditions, (snow, fog, etc.) blue may be more visible to the human eye.
5. Federal standards require Law Enforcement vehicles be equipped with red and blue lights. Therefore Police vehicles on Indian Reservations are already equipped with both red and blue lights.
6. This change will clear up any confusion that may arise with the Public when dealing with Police vehicles.