

# House Bill 3303

Sponsored by Representative BARNHART (at the request of Adam Grunseth)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Authorizes amber warning lights for vehicles engaged in certain activities.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to vehicle warning lights; amending ORS 811.525, 816.280 and 816.350.

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1.** ORS 816.280 is amended to read:

816.280. This section establishes standards for different types of warning lights. Each of the following is a requirement for warning lights as described:

(1) The following are the colors for the indicated type of warning light:

(a) Public vehicle warning lights, pilot vehicle warning lights and commercial vehicle warning lights shall be amber.

(b) Tow vehicle warning lights may be amber or red.

(c) Weighmaster and motor carrier enforcement officer warning lights shall be red.

(d) Warning lights on vehicles engaged in the removal, containment or cleanup of a hazardous materials release, and on vehicles at the scene of a potential release of hazardous materials, may be red or amber.

(e) Warning lights on vehicles being used by medical examiners to reach the scene of an accident or of a death investigation may be red.

**(f) Warning lights on vehicles being used by members of the news media when engaged in obtaining information for the purpose of disseminating news to the public may be amber.**

**(g) Warning lights on vehicles used by a qualified emergency service volunteer, as defined in ORS 401.358, when the volunteer is engaged in emergency service activities, as defined in ORS 401.358, may be amber.**

(2) Warning lights shall provide an intermittent light that may be either of a revolving or flashing type or any other type that provides an intermittent light.

(3) All warning lights shall be visible from a distance of not less than 500 feet under normal atmospheric conditions at night.

**SECTION 2.** ORS 811.525 is amended to read:

811.525. This section establishes exemptions from ORS 811.515 and 811.520. The exemptions under this section are in addition to any exemptions under ORS 801.026. The exemptions established under this section are partial or complete as described in the following:

(1) ORS 811.515 and 811.520 shall not be construed to prohibit the use of additional parts and accessories on any vehicle not inconsistent with the provisions of those sections.

(2) Except for the provisions relating to exempt-vehicle safety lighting equipment, ORS 811.515

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 and 811.520 do not apply to any of the following:

2 (a) Road machinery.

3 (b) Road rollers.

4 (c) Farm tractors.

5 (d) Antique motor vehicles that are maintained as a collector's item and used for exhibitions,  
6 parades, club activities and similar uses, but not used primarily for the transportation of persons  
7 or property.

8 (3) Whenever motor and other vehicles are operated in combination during the time that lights  
9 are required, any lighting equipment, except the taillight, which by reason of its location on a ve-  
10 hicle of the combination would be obscured by another vehicle of the combination, need not be  
11 lighted. This subsection shall not affect the requirement that lighted clearance lights be displayed  
12 on the front of the foremost vehicle required to have clearance lights nor the requirement that all  
13 lights on the rear of the rearmost vehicle of the combination be lighted.

14 (4) Lighting equipment on bicycles shall be lighted as required under ORS 815.280.

15 (5) Parked or stopped vehicles are not required to display parking lights if the road authority  
16 for the highway provides by ordinance or resolution that no lights need be displayed upon a vehicle  
17 parked on the highway in accordance with legal parking regulations where there is sufficient light  
18 to render clearly discernible any person or object within a distance of 500 feet from the highway.

19 (6) Nothing under ORS 811.515 and 811.520 limits the ability to use the following lights with any  
20 other lights during the day or at night:

21 (a) Public vehicle warning lights.

22 (b) Pilot vehicle warning lights.

23 (c) Tow vehicle warning lights.

24 (d) Police lights.

25 (e) Warning lights on vehicles at the scene of an actual or potential release of hazardous ma-  
26 terials, as described in ORS 816.280.

27 (f) Warning lights on vehicles being used by medical examiners to reach the scene of an accident  
28 or of a death investigation, as described in ORS 816.280.

29 (g) Commercial vehicle warning lights.

30 **(h) Warning lights on vehicles being used by members of the news media when engaged**  
31 **in obtaining information for the purpose of disseminating news to the public, as described in**  
32 **ORS 816.280.**

33 **(i) Warning lights on vehicles used by a qualified emergency service volunteer, as defined**  
34 **in ORS 401.358, when the volunteer is engaged in emergency service activities, as defined in**  
35 **ORS 401.358, and as described in ORS 816.280.**

36 (7) Requirements for use of motorcycle and moped headlights are under ORS 814.320.

37 (8) Requirements for lighting equipment for an electric personal assistive mobility device are  
38 under ORS 815.284.

39 **SECTION 3.** ORS 816.350 is amended to read:

40 816.350. This section establishes requirements for ORS 816.360. When specific types of lighting  
41 equipment are mentioned by this section, those types are types described under ORS 816.040 to  
42 816.290. Except as allowed under this section or where an exemption under ORS 816.370 specifically  
43 provides otherwise, a vehicle that does not comply with this section is in violation of ORS 816.360:

44 (1)(a) A motorcycle may not be equipped with more than three headlights.

45 (b) A moped may not be equipped with more than two headlights.

1 (2) Except when blue or purple inserts are allowed under ORS 816.080, 816.100 or 816.120, no  
2 vehicle may have any lighting equipment mounted on the rear that displays or reflects any color  
3 other than red except for the following lighting equipment:

- 4 (a) Turn signal lights.
- 5 (b) Rear mounted lighting systems.
- 6 (c) Registration plate lights.
- 7 (d) Back-up lights.

8 (3) Except as otherwise allowed under this section, only the following types of vehicles may be  
9 equipped with public vehicle warning lights:

10 (a) A vehicle operated by the state, or any county, city, district or other political subdivision  
11 of the state, and used for the construction, improvement, repair, maintenance, operation or patrol  
12 of any public highway.

13 (b) Vehicles operated by a public utility or telecommunications utility involved in maintenance,  
14 repair or construction of their facilities along public rights of way.

15 (4) Vehicles operated by a police officer and used for law enforcement may be equipped with any  
16 type of police lights, but only these vehicles may be equipped with blue lights.

17 (5) Except as otherwise allowed under this section, only a vehicle operated by a weighmaster  
18 or motor carrier enforcement officer proceeding under the authority of ORS 810.530 may be equipped  
19 with weighmaster warning lights.

20 (6) Except as otherwise allowed under this section, only tow vehicles may be equipped with tow  
21 vehicle warning lights.

22 (7) Except as otherwise allowed under this section, only a motor vehicle escort accompanying  
23 a motor vehicle carrying or towing a load of a size or description not permitted under ORS 815.160,  
24 815.170, 818.020, 818.060, 818.090, 818.110, 818.160 and 818.300 may be equipped with a pilot vehicle  
25 warning light.

26 (8) Except as otherwise allowed under this section, only the following vehicles may be equipped  
27 with bus safety lights:

- 28 (a) School buses.
- 29 (b) Worker transport buses.
- 30 (c) Vehicles issued a permit under ORS 818.260.

31 (9) No vehicle except a vehicle used in active service transporting United States Mail may be  
32 equipped with mail delivery lights.

33 (10) Except as otherwise allowed under this section, fire company warning lights may only be  
34 used on the following vehicles:

- 35 (a) An emergency vehicle.
- 36 (b) A vehicle authorized under a permit issued under ORS 818.250.
- 37 (c) Funeral lead vehicles and funeral escort vehicles used to escort funeral processions.

38 (11) Except as otherwise allowed under this section, no vehicle or equipment may display or  
39 carry any lighting equipment or device with a red light visible from directly in front of the vehicle  
40 or equipment.

41 (12) Except as otherwise allowed under this section, all flashing lights are prohibited on all  
42 motor vehicles on any street or highway except for turn signals, hazard lights and headlight flashing  
43 systems described in ORS 816.050.

44 (13) No motor vehicle other than an emergency vehicle may be equipped with more than one  
45 spotlight.

1 (14) No motor vehicle may be equipped with more than two cowl or fender lights.

2 (15) A vehicle at the scene of an actual or potential release of hazardous materials may be  
3 equipped with warning lights as described in ORS 816.280 (1)(d).

4 (16) A vehicle being used by medical examiners to reach the scene of an accident or of a death  
5 investigation may be equipped with warning lights as described in ORS 816.280 (1)(e).

6 (17) A vehicle may be equipped with covers on any of the following lights if the covers are re-  
7 moved when the lights are required to be in operation:

8 (a) Headlights under ORS 816.050.

9 (b) Taillights under ORS 816.080.

10 (c) Brake lights under ORS 816.100.

11 (d) Turn signals under ORS 816.120.

12 (e) Reflectors under ORS 816.180.

13 (18) A commercial vehicle, as defined in ORS 801.210 (2), may be equipped with commercial ve-  
14 hicle warning lights.

15 **(19) A vehicle being used by members of the news media when engaged in obtaining in-**  
16 **formation for the purpose of disseminating news to the public may be equipped with warning**  
17 **lights as described in ORS 816.280 (1)(f).**

18 **(20) A vehicle being used by a qualified emergency service volunteer, as defined in ORS**  
19 **401.358, when the volunteer is engaged in emergency service activities, as defined in ORS**  
20 **401.358, may be equipped with warning lights as described in ORS 816.280 (1)(g).**

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