

1 State of Arkansas  
2 80th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1995  
4 By: Senator Walters

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 351

5 *By: Representatives Mullenix, Allen, T. Smith, and Angel*  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

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9 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 27-49-219 TO AUTHORIZE  
10 POLICE AGENCIES TO EQUIP THEIR VEHICLES WITH BLUE LIGHTS  
11 OR A COMBINATION OF BLUE, RED OR WHITE LIGHTS; AND FOR  
12 OTHER PURPOSES."  
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## Subtitle

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15 "AUTHORIZE POLICE AGENCIES TO EQUIP  
16 THEIR VEHICLES WITH BLUE LIGHTS OR A  
17 COMBINATION OF BLUE, RED OR WHITE  
18 LIGHTS."  
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 27-49-219(d) is amended to read as follows:

23 "(d)(1) Authorized emergency vehicle means authorized emergency  
24 vehicles which shall include:

25 (A) Motor vehicles used by state, county, or city and  
26 municipal police agencies, all of which shall be equipped with blue or blue,  
27 *red or white rotating or flashing emergency lights;*

28 (B) Motor vehicles used by state, county, city, or  
29 municipal fire departments, motor vehicles owned and used by volunteer fire  
30 fighters while engaged in official duties, motor vehicles used by emergency  
31 medical technicians certified by the Department of Health or privately owned  
32 fire departments, and ambulances used solely for ambulance purposes which are  
33 approved as ambulances in accordance with state and federal highway safety  
34 standards, all of which shall be equipped with red rotating or flashing  
35 emergency lights. Flashing emergency lights shall be used by volunteer fire

1 fighters solely while engaged in the performance of duties as volunteer fire  
2 fighters and by emergency medical technicians solely while engaged in the  
3 performance of duties with an ambulance service licensed by the Department of  
4 Health or an organized rescue squad or team; and

5                   (C) Motor vehicles owned by state, county, and municipal  
6 agencies whose use is determined by the state agency to be required for  
7 dangerous or hazardous services and motor vehicles owned by public service  
8 corporations or private individuals whose use is determined by the  
9 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in accordance with regulations established by  
10 the commissioner to prevent abuses thereof, to be for extra hazardous  
11 service, may be equipped with amber flashing or rotating emergency or warning  
12 lights which shall not qualify it as an emergency vehicle, but which shall,  
13 during hazardous uses thereof, display its amber flashing or rotating  
14 emergency or warning light in order that other motorists and the public may  
15 be aware of the special or hazardous use of the vehicle and shall exercise  
16 caution in approaching the vehicle at all times while the amber flashing or  
17 rotating emergency or warning light is in operation. All hazardous service  
18 vehicles shall conform to regular traffic signals and speed limits during  
19 their operation.

20                   (2) It shall be unlawful to install, operate, or use any  
21 rotating or flashing light on any motor vehicle except as authorized in this  
22 subsection."

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24           SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent  
25 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas  
26 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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28           SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
29 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
30 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
31 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
32 act are declared to be severable.

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34           SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
35 hereby repealed.

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SECTION 5. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that present law provides that police vehicles must be equipped with blue rotating or flashing emergency lights; that a combination of *blue, red, amber or white* rotating or flashing emergency lights are more visible during daylight hours; that law enforcement agencies should be given the option of equipping their vehicles with either blue lights or *blue, red, white, or amber* lights; that this act so provides; and that this act should go into effect immediately in order to allow police agencies to exercise this option as soon as possible. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

*/s/Walters*

***As Engrossed: 2/7/95 2/13/95 3/17/95***

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