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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. 478

02/11/2013 Authored by Brynaert and Erhardt

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to public safety; traffic regulations; expanding requirement of display of
1.3 vehicle lighting; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 169.48.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 169.48, is amended to read:

1.6 **169.48 VEHICLE LIGHTING.**

1.7 ~~Subdivision 1. Lights to be displayed.~~ (a) Every vehicle upon a highway within
1.8 this state:

1.9 ~~(1) at any time from sunset to sunrise;~~

1.10 ~~(2) at any time when it is raining, snowing, sleet, or hail; and~~

1.11 ~~(3) at any other time when visibility is impaired by weather, smoke, fog or other~~
1.12 ~~conditions or there is not sufficient light to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles~~
1.13 ~~on the highway at a distance of 500 feet ahead;~~

1.14 shall display lighted headlamps, lighted tail lamps, and illuminating devices, as hereinafter,
1.15 respectively, required for different classes of vehicles, subject to exceptions with respect
1.16 to provided for parked vehicles and law enforcement vehicles, as hereinafter stated. In
1.17 addition to the other requirements of this paragraph, every school bus transporting children
1.18 upon a highway within this state, at any time from a half hour before sunrise to a half hour
1.19 after sunset, shall display lighted headlamps, lighted tail lamps, and illuminating devices
1.20 as required by this paragraph, except that the operator shall use the lowermost distribution
1.21 of light specified in section 169.60 unless conditions warrant otherwise.

1.22 (b) ~~When requirement is hereinafter declared as to~~ Provisions establishing the
1.23 distance from which certain lamps and devices shall must render objects visible or within

2.1 which ~~such~~ lamps or devices ~~shall~~ must be visible, ~~these provisions shall apply during~~
2.2 ~~the time stated in this section~~ upon a straight level unlighted highway under normal
2.3 atmospheric conditions unless a different time or condition is expressly stated ~~and~~. Unless
2.4 otherwise specified, the location of lamps and devices ~~shall~~ must refer to the center of ~~such~~
2.5 lamps or devices. Parking lamps ~~shall~~ must not be used in lieu of headlamps to satisfy
2.6 the requirements of this section.

2.7 ~~Subd. 2. **Certain violations; negligence.** Notwithstanding section 169.96, a~~
2.8 ~~violation of subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (2), is not negligence per se or prima facie~~
2.9 ~~evidence of negligence.~~