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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. 645

02/04/2019 Authored by Johnson and Grossell
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Transportation Finance and Policy Division

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to motor vehicles; authorizing certain tow trucks and towing vehicles to
1.3 be equipped with blue flashing lights; amending Minnesota Statutes 2018, sections
1.4 168B.16; 169.64, subdivision 4.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 168B.16, is amended to read:

1.7 168B.16 FLASHING LIGHT ON TOW TRUCK.

1.8 (a) A tow truck or towing vehicle must be equipped with flashing or intermittent red
1.9 and amber lights of a type approved by the commissioner of public safety. A tow truck or
1.10 towing vehicle may be equipped with a blue light, subject to the limitations under section
1.11 169.64, subdivision 4, paragraphs (a) and (b). The lights must be placed on the dome of the
1.12 vehicle at the highest practicable point visible from a distance of 500 feet.

1.13 (b) The flashing red light, blue light, or both must be displayed only when the tow truck
1.14 or towing vehicle is stopped and engaged in emergency service on or near the traveled
1.15 portion of a highway. The flashing amber light may be displayed when the tow truck or
1.16 towing vehicle is moving a disabled vehicle.

1.17 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 169.64, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

1.18 Subd. 4. Blue light. (a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) to (d), blue lights are
1.19 prohibited on all vehicles except road maintenance equipment and snow removal equipment,
1.20 or a tow truck or towing vehicle operated by or under contract to the state or a political
1.21 subdivision thereof.

2.1 (b) Authorized emergency vehicles may display flashing blue lights to the rear of the
2.2 vehicle as a warning signal in combination with other lights permitted or required by this
2.3 chapter. In addition, authorized emergency vehicles may display, mounted on the passenger
2.4 side only, flashing blue lights to the front of the vehicle as a warning signal in combination
2.5 with other lights permitted or required by this chapter.

2.6 (c) A motorcycle may display a blue light of up to one-inch diameter as part of the
2.7 motorcycle's rear brake light.

2.8 (d) A motor vehicle may display a blue light of up to one-inch diameter as part of the
2.9 vehicle's rear brake light if:

2.10 (1) the vehicle is a collector vehicle, as described in section 168.10; or

2.11 (2) the vehicle is eligible to display a collector plate under section 168.10.