STATE OF NEW YORK

4842

2007-2008 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 23, 2007

Introduced by Sen. LARKIN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to establish a temporary state commission on the use of colored and flashing lights on certain vehicles to examine, evaluate and make recommendations on the use of such lights on authorized emergency vehicles and the personal motor vehicles of volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1    Section 1. A temporary state commission on the use of colored and flashing lights on certain vehicles is hereby established to examine, evaluate and make recommendations concerning the use of any variety of such lights, as generally specified in subdivision 41 of section 375 of the vehicle and traffic law, on the various types of authorized emergency vehicles, as defined in section 101 of the vehicle and traffic law, and on the motor vehicles of volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers under the circumstances specified in subparagraph a of paragraph 4 and paragraph 5 of subdivision 41 of section 375 of the vehicle and traffic law. Such commission shall direct its attention to at least the following:
12    (a) Evaluate which combination of flashing and colored lighting would be the optimal lighting system for the motor vehicles owned by volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers to be used only while engaged in emergency operation, as defined by section 114-b of the vehicle and traffic law; and
13    (b) Evaluate which combination of flashing and color lighting would be the optimal lighting system for authorized emergency vehicles by making such vehicles readily visible during daylight and dark, and provide for easy identification of the various types of authorized emergency vehicles.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets { } is old law to be omitted.
S. 4842

S. 2. (a) The temporary state commission on the use of colored and flashing lights on certain vehicles shall consist of 15 members as follows:

(i) the commissioner of motor vehicles, or his or her designee, who shall serve as chair of the commission;
(ii) the commissioner of transportation, or his or her designee;
(iii) the commissioner of health, or his or her designee;
(iv) the superintendent of insurance, or his or her designee;
(v) a representative of the state emergency management office;
(vi) the superintendent of state police, or his or her designee; and
(vii) nine appointed members who shall represent a statewide organization that represents police officers, a statewide organization that represents professional firefighters, a statewide organization that represents volunteer firefighters, a statewide organization that represents professional emergency medical technicians and a statewide organization that represents volunteer ambulance workers; and persons with expertise and knowledge about the visibility and distraction caused by various types of lights. Such members shall be appointed as follows:

(A) three members shall be appointed by the governor;
(B) two members shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate;
(C) two members shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly;
(D) one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and
(E) one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly.

(b) Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the manner provided for original appointments.

S. 3. The temporary state commission on the use of colored and flashing lights on certain vehicles may meet within and without the state, shall hold public hearings and shall have all the powers of a legislative committee pursuant to the legislative law.

S. 4. The members of the temporary state commission on the use of colored and flashing lights on certain vehicles shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in their duties pursuant to this act.

S. 5. The temporary state commission on the use of colored and flashing lights on certain vehicles shall, on or before March 31, 2008, submit a report to the governor and the legislature of its findings, conclusions and recommendations. Such commission shall, as part of such report, submit such legislative and regulatory proposals as it deems necessary to implement its recommendations.

S. 6. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall expire and be deemed repealed April 1, 2008.