

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 155

BY SENATOR STINE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

MOTOR VEHICLES. Provides for emergency vehicle equipment for licensed surgeons.
(8/1/25)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 32:1(1) and 318(G), relative to emergency vehicle equipment for licensed surgeons; to provide for the definition of authorized emergency vehicle; to provide for emergency visual signal equipment for licensed surgeons; to provide for procedures and requirements for emergency equipment; to provide for use of emergency equipment; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 32:1(1) and 318(G) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1. Definitions

When used in this Chapter, the following terms have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) "Authorized emergency vehicle" means a vehicle of a fire department, a vehicle of the department's weights and standards police force, a police vehicle, a private vehicle, a privately owned vehicle belonging to **trauma surgeons or** members of an organized volunteer fire department or fire district when so designated or authorized by the fire chief of that fire department or fire district, an

1 industrial-owned vehicle assigned to members of a fire department or fire district
2 when so designated or authorized by the fire chief of that fire department or fire
3 district, a vehicle parked or stopped by elevator repair or construction personnel
4 while responding to an elevator emergency, such as ambulances and emergency
5 medical response vehicles certified by the Louisiana Department of Health that are
6 operated by certified ambulance services, and emergency vehicles of municipal
7 departments or public service corporations as are designated or authorized by the
8 secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development or by the chief of
9 police of any incorporated municipality. For purposes of this Section, elevator repair
10 shall be limited to those elevators that move people.

11 * * *

12 §318. Audible and visual signals on certain vehicles

13 * * *

14 G.(1)~~(a)~~**(a)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, privately
15 owned motor vehicles belonging to members of the emergency medical team as
16 designated by the commander of the United States Army Community Hospital at
17 Fort Polk may be equipped with a large flashing red light which shall have sufficient
18 intensity to be visible at five hundred feet in normal sunlight.

19 ~~(2)~~~~(b)~~**(b)** The commander shall submit the name and motor vehicle license
20 number of each member of the emergency medical team to the secretary of the
21 Department of Public Safety and the secretary of the Department of Transportation
22 and Development.

23 ~~(3)~~~~(c)~~**(c)** The secretary of the Department of Public Safety shall issue, after
24 review and recommendation of the secretary of the Department of Transportation
25 and Development, to each team member a letter of authorization for the use of the
26 light whenever the member is en route to the hospital in an emergency as declared
27 by the hospital commander.

28 ~~(4)~~~~(d)~~**(d)** The letter of authorization shall be located within the vehicle for which
29 it has been issued. The provisions of R.S. 32:24 shall extend to the driver of any

vehicle issued the letter of authorization under this Subsection.

(2)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, and pursuant to R.S. 32:24, privately owned motor vehicles belonging to a general trauma surgeon licensed by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners may be equipped with a large removable flashing red light which shall have sufficient intensity to be visible at five hundred feet in normal sunlight.

(b) The provisions of this Paragraph shall only apply to a surgeon who has been board certified by the American Board of Surgery or the American Board of Medical Specialties with a subspecialty in complex surgeries, actively practicing medicine in this state, and who is responding to a Level I, II, or III trauma center as designated by the Louisiana Department of Health pursuant to R.S. 40:2171 et seq.

(c) The Department of Public Safety shall, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, adopt rules and regulations for the efficient implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this Paragraph, which shall include the surgeon's name and motor vehicle license number, documentation from the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, a procedure to verify all documentation annually, and revocation or suspension of authority due to failure to comply with all rules and regulations.

* * *

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 155 Engrossed

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Stine

Present law provides for the definition of "authorized emergency vehicle." Proposed law adds private vehicles of trauma surgeons to the definition of "authorized emergency vehicle".

Present law provides for privately owned motor vehicles belonging to members of the emergency medical team to be equipped with a large flashing red light which shall have sufficient intensity to be visible at five hundred feet in normal sunlight.

Proposed law retains present law and provides for privately owned motor vehicles belonging

to general trauma surgeons licensed by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, the American Board of Surgery or the American Board of Medical Specialties with a subspecialty in complex surgeries and actively practicing medicine in this state at a Level I, II or III trauma center to be equipped with emergency visual signals when en route to a medical emergency. Proposed law further provides for the office of public safety to develop a procedure and approval protocol, and rules and regulations including revocation or suspension of authority due to failure to comply with all rules and regulations.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 32:1(1) and 318(G))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Transportation,
Highways, and Public Works to the bill

1. Includes privately owned vehicles by trauma surgeons in the definition of "authorized emergency vehicles.
2. Adds surgeons responding to level II and III trauma centers.
3. Adds revocation or suspension of authority due to failure to comply with rules and regulations promulgated by the office of public safety.