

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE TO SENATE BILL 64

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 40-1-7 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 requirement that officers enforcing traffic laws have a blue light on the roof of their vehicles,
3 so as to provide for an exception to the requirement that designated officers enforcing traffic
4 laws have a blue light on the roof of their vehicles; to amend Code Section 40-8-91 of the
5 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to marking and equipment of law enforcement
6 vehicles, so as to provide motorists an opportunity to continue to drive until a reasonably safe
7 location for stopping is reached when being stopped by a law enforcement officer in a
8 marked vehicle; to provide for specific procedures therefor; to provide an effective date; to
9 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 Code Section 40-1-7 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the requirement
13 that officers enforcing traffic laws have a blue light on the roof of their vehicles, is amended
14 by striking the Code section and inserting in lieu thereof a new Code Section 40-1-7 to read
15 as follows:

16 "40-1-7.

17 Whenever pursuing a person in violation of a traffic related offense, a uniformed law
18 enforcement officer who is assigned routinely or primarily to traffic law enforcement or
19 other traffic safety duties on the roadways or highways of this state must place a visible
20 blue light on the roof of his or her vehicle if such vehicle is not equipped with permanent
21 exterior mounted roof blue lights; provided, however, that the provisions of this Code
22 section shall not apply to law enforcement officers operating vehicles manufactured prior
23 to 2001. This Code section shall not apply to any officer assigned to special operations
24 activities or responding to an immediate threat to public safety as a result of an accident or
25 other emergency. This Code section shall not apply to vehicles of the Georgia State Patrol
26 operating a vehicle marked in accordance with Code Section 40-8-91, with flashing or
27 revolving colored lights visible under normal atmospheric conditions for a distance of 500

1 feet from the front and rear of such vehicle, and which also has an illuminating agency
 2 identifier reasonably visible to a driver of a vehicle subject to a traffic stop; provided,
 3 however, that the Georgia State Patrol shall not be permitted to have more than two
 4 vehicles per post without such exterior mounted roof lights. An otherwise lawful arrest
 5 shall not be invalidated or in any manner affected by failure to comply with this Code
 6 section."

7 **SECTION 2.**

8 Code Section 40-8-91 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to marking and
 9 equipment of law enforcement vehicles, is amended by adding immediately following
 10 subsection (d) new subsections (e) and (f) to read as follows:

11 "(e) Whenever a motorist driving on the roadways of this state is directed to stop by a law
 12 enforcement officer in a law enforcement vehicle marked as required under this Code
 13 section, the motorist may continue to drive until a reasonably safe location for stopping is
 14 reached. Such motorist shall indicate to the officer his or her intent to proceed to a safe
 15 location by displaying the vehicle's flashing lights or turn signal. In proceeding to a safe
 16 location, the motorist shall observe the posted maximum speed limit.

17 (f) An otherwise lawful arrest shall not be invalidated or in any manner affected by failure
 18 to comply with this Code section."

19 **SECTION 3.**

20 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
 21 without such approval.

22 **SECTION 4.**

23 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.