

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021**

S

1

**SENATE BILL 374**

Short Title: Auth. Use of Blue Lights on Fire Apparatus. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Jarvis, Ford, and Perry (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 30, 2021

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF BLUE LIGHTS ON FIRE APPARATUS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-130.1(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) It is unlawful for any person to possess a blue light or to install, activate, or operate a blue light in or on any vehicle in this State, except for a publicly owned vehicle used for law enforcement ~~purposes or purposes~~, any other vehicle when used by law enforcement officers in the performance of their official ~~duties~~, ~~duties~~, or the vehicle is a publicly owned fire apparatus, and the blue lights are only visible from the rear of a fire apparatus when the parking brake is engaged and the on-scene lights are activated. For purposes of this subsection, the term "fire apparatus" means any of the following apparatus, as they are defined in the most recent version of NFPA 1901, the Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus, published by the National Fire Protection Association: pumper apparatus, mobile foam apparatus, initial attack apparatus, quint, tanker apparatus, and aerial apparatus. As used in this subsection, unless the context requires otherwise, "blue light" means any blue light installed on a vehicle after initial manufacture of the vehicle; or an operable blue light which:

- (1) Is not (i) being installed on, held in inventory for the purpose of being installed on, or held in inventory for the purpose of sale for installation on a vehicle on which it may be lawfully operated or (ii) installed on a vehicle which is used solely for the purpose of demonstrating the blue light for sale to law enforcement personnel;
- (1a) Is designed for use by an emergency vehicle, or is similar in appearance to a blue light designed for use by an emergency vehicle; and
- (2) Can be operated by use of the vehicle's battery, the vehicle's electrical system, or a dry cell battery."

**SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2021.

