STATE OF NEW YORK

10261

IN ASSEMBLY

February 12, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. SANTABARBARA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to the use of vehicle-mounted variable message signs by emergency roadside service vehicles, tow trucks and highway assistance vehicles

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section 1229-e to read as follows:

§ 1229-e. Vehicle-mounted variable message signs on emergency road service vehicles, tow trucks and highway assistance vehicles. Vehicle-mounted variable message signs are authorized to be used on emergency roadside service vehicles, tow trucks and highway assistance vehicles when such emergency roadside service vehicles, tow trucks and highway assistance vehicles are responding to roadside emergencies or disabled vehicles, subject to the following provisions:

1. A vehicle-mounted variable message sign shall only be used on an emergency roadside service vehicle, tow truck or highway assistance vehicle when such emergency roadside service vehicle, tow truck or highway assistance vehicle is lawfully stopped on the shoulder or at the roadside;

2. A vehicle-mounted variable message sign shall only be used on an emergency roadside service vehicle, tow truck or highway assistance vehicle for safety-related communications, including "slow down/move over" and directional arrows consistent with nationally recognized traffic safety standards; and

3. No vehicle-mounted variable message sign shall be used on an emergency roadside service vehicle, tow truck or highway assistance vehicle for advertising or general traffic control purposes.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD14830-01-6