

STATE OF NEW YORK

8524

IN SENATE

March 8, 2022

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

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to the display of blue lights on the vehicles of mobile crisis response staff members

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

1 Section 1. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding two new
2 sections 109-d and 109-e to read as follows:

3 § 109-d. Mobile crisis response services. Services to provide an
4 immediate and short-term emergency response to individuals who are in a
5 state of mental, emotional, physical and behavioral distress in order to
6 prevent a critical incident.

7 § 109-e. Mobile crisis response staff member. An individual who is an
8 employee or a designated volunteer of a duly authorized mobile crisis
9 response team or other established crisis response service.

10 § 2. Subparagraph a of paragraph 4 of subdivision 41 of section 375 of
11 the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by section 1 of part C of chap-
12 ter 58 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as follows:

13 a. One blue light may be affixed to any motor vehicle owned by a
14 volunteer member of a fire department or by a mobile crisis response
15 staff member or on a motor vehicle owned by a member of such person's
16 family residing in the same household or by a business enterprise in
17 which such person has a proprietary interest or by which he or she is
18 employed, provided such volunteer firefighter or mobile crisis response
19 staff member has been authorized in writing to so affix a blue light by
20 the chief of the fire department or company of which he or she is a
21 member, or the administrator of a mobile crisis response service which
22 authorization shall be subject to revocation at any time by the chief or
23 administrator who issued the same or his or her successor in office.
24 Such blue light may be displayed exclusively by such volunteer fire-
25 fighter or mobile crisis response staff member on such a vehicle only
26 when engaged in an emergency operation. The use of blue lights on vehi-
27 cles shall be restricted for use only by a volunteer firefighter or
28 mobile crisis response staff member except as otherwise provided for in
29 subparagraphs b and b-1 of this paragraph.

30 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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