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:

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

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

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

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

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

§ 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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