STATE OF NEW YORK

5397

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 3, 2023

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 green lights on the vehicles of members of mobile crisis teams

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

Section 1. Paragraph 5 of subdivision 41 of section 375 of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by chapter 504 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

5. Green light. (a) One green light may be affixed to any motor vehicle owned by a member of a volunteer ambulance service **or by a member of a mobile crisis team**, or on a motor vehicle owned by a member of such person's family, or by a business enterprise in which such person has a proprietary interest or by which he is employed, provided such member **of a volunteer ambulance service** has been authorized in writing to so affix a green light by the chief officer of such service as designated by the members thereof**, or provided such member of a mobile crisis team has been authorized in writing to so affix a green light by the office of mental health or the office of addiction services and supports**. Such green light may be displayed exclusively by such member of a volunteer ambulance service**, or a member of a deployed mobile crisis team,** only when engaged in an emergency operation. The use of green lights on vehicles shall be restricted for use only by a member of a volunteer ambulance service **or a member of a mobile crisis team** as provided for in this paragraph except as otherwise provided for in subparagraph c of this paragraph.

(b) As used in this paragraph [~~volunteer~~] **the following terms shall have the following meanings:**

(i) "volunteer ambulance [~~service~~] **service"** means: [~~(i)~~] **(A)** a non-profit membership corporation (other than a fire corporation) incorporated under or subject to the provisions of the membership corporations

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

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law, or any other law, operating its ambulance or ambulances on a non-profit basis for the convenience of the members thereof and their families or of the community or under a contract with a county, city, town or village pursuant to section one hundred twenty-two-b of the general municipal law; or

[~~(ii)~~] **(B)** an unincorporated association of persons operating its ambulance or ambulances on a non-profit basis for the convenience of the members and their families or of the community[~~.~~]**;**

(ii) "mobile crisis team" shall have the same meaning as mobile crisis teams as defined by paragraph eleven of subdivision (a) of section 36.03 of the mental hygiene law; and

(iii) "office of mental health and office of addiction services and supports" shall mean the autonomous offices established within the department of mental hygiene pursuant to section 5.01 of the mental hygiene law.

(c)(i) In addition to the amber light authorized to be displayed pursuant to paragraph three of this subdivision, one or more green lights or combination green and amber lights may be affixed to a hazard vehicle designed for ice and snow removal owned and operated by the state or by a county, city, town or village. Such green light or lights may be displayed on a hazard vehicle designed for ice and snow removal owned and operated by the state or by a county, city, town or village when such vehicle is engaged in a hazardous operation and is also displaying the amber light or lights required to be displayed during a hazardous operation pursuant to paragraph three of this subdivision. Nothing contained in this subparagraph shall be deemed to authorize the use of green lights on hazard vehicles designed for ice and snow removal owned and operated by the state or by a county, city, town or village unless such hazard vehicles also display one or more amber lights as otherwise authorized in this subdivision.

(ii) The commissioner is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations relating to the use, placement, power and display of green lights on a hazard vehicle designed for ice and snow removal owned and operated by the state or by a county, city, town or village.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law.