

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL DRS15032-MW-24

Short Title: REACT/Plates/Siren.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Daniel (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE
3 PERMANENT REGISTRATION PLATES TO RADIO EMERGENCY ASSOCIATED
4 COMMUNICATIONS TEAMS (REACT) AND TO AUTHORIZE REACT VEHICLES TO
5 USE LIGHTS AND SIRENS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-84(b)(7), as repealed by Section 1 of S.L. 2012-159, is
8 reenacted and reads as rewritten:

9 "(b) Permanent Registration Plates. – The Division may issue permanent plates for the
10 following motor vehicles:

11 ...

12 (7) A motor vehicle owned by an incorporated REACT ("~~Radio Emergency~~
13 ~~Association of Citizen Teams~~") ~~Team.~~ ("Radio Emergency Associated
14 Communications Teams") team that provides its services pursuant to a
15 contract with a county or municipality.

16"

17 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-125(b) reads as rewritten:

18 "(b) Every vehicle owned or operated by a police department or by the Department of
19 Public Safety including the State Highway Patrol or by the Wildlife Resources Commission or
20 the Division of Marine Fisheries of the Department of Environmental Quality, or by the Division
21 of Parks and Recreation of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, or by the North
22 Carolina Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and used
23 exclusively for law enforcement, firefighting, or other emergency response purposes, or by the
24 Division of Emergency Management, or by a fire department, either municipal or rural, or by a
25 fire patrol, whether such fire department or patrol be a paid organization or a voluntary
26 association, vehicles used by an organ procurement organization or agency for the recovery and
27 transportation of human tissues and organs for ~~transplantation,~~ transplantation, or by an
28 incorporated REACT team that provides its services pursuant to a contract with a county or
29 municipality, and every ambulance or emergency medical service emergency support vehicle
30 used for answering emergency calls, shall be equipped with special lights, bells, sirens, horns or
31 exhaust whistles of a type approved by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

32 The operators of all such vehicles so equipped are hereby authorized to use such equipment
33 at all times while engaged in the performance of their duties and services, both within their
34 respective corporate limits and beyond.

35 In addition to the use of special equipment authorized and required by this subsection, the
36 chief and assistant chiefs of any police department or of any fire department, whether the same



1 be municipal or rural, paid or voluntary, county fire marshals, assistant fire marshals, transplant
2 coordinators, and emergency management coordinators, are hereby authorized to use such special
3 equipment on privately owned vehicles operated by them while actually engaged in the
4 performance of their official or semiofficial duties or services either within or beyond their
5 respective corporate limits.

6 And vehicles driven by law enforcement officers of the North Carolina Division of Motor
7 Vehicles shall be equipped with a bell, siren, or exhaust whistle of a type approved by the
8 Commissioner, and all vehicles owned and operated by the State Bureau of Investigation for the
9 use of its agents and officers in the performance of their official duties may be equipped with
10 special lights, bells, sirens, horns or exhaust whistles of a type approved by the Commissioner of
11 Motor Vehicles.

12 Every vehicle used or operated for law enforcement purposes by the sheriff or any salaried
13 deputy sheriff or salaried rural policeman of any county, whether owned by the county or not,
14 may be, but is not required to be, equipped with special lights, bells, sirens, horns or exhaust
15 whistles of a type approved by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. Such special equipment
16 shall not be operated or activated by any person except by a law enforcement officer while
17 actively engaged in performing law enforcement duties.

18 In addition to the use of special equipment authorized and required by this subsection, the
19 chief and assistant chiefs of each emergency rescue squad which is recognized or sponsored by
20 any municipality or civil preparedness agency, are hereby authorized to use such special
21 equipment on privately owned vehicles operated by them while actually engaged in their official
22 or semiofficial duties or services either within or beyond the corporate limits of the municipality
23 which recognizes or sponsors such organization."

24 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.