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HOUSE BILL 631

**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

INTRODUCED BY

Patricio Ruiloba and Harry Garcia

AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; PROHIBITING RECOVERY AND REPAIR  
VEHICLES FROM USING FLASHING LIGHTS UNLESS THEY ARE STOPPED ON  
A ROADWAY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**SECTION 1.** Section 66-3-835 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,  
Chapter 35, Section 141, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-3-835. SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS ON LAMPS.--

A. Lighted lamps or illuminating devices upon a  
motor vehicle, other than headlamps, spot lamps, auxiliary  
lamps, flashing turn signals, emergency vehicle warning lamps  
and school bus warning lamps, that project a beam of light of  
an intensity greater than three hundred candle power shall be  
directed so that no part of the high-intensity portion of the  
beam strikes the level of the roadway on which the vehicle

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1 stands at a distance of more than seventy-five feet from the  
2 vehicle.

3 B. A person shall not drive or move upon a highway  
4 a vehicle or equipment with a lamp or device displaying a red  
5 light visible from directly in front of the center of the  
6 vehicle or equipment, except as expressly authorized or  
7 required by the Motor Vehicle Code.

8 C. Flashing lights are prohibited except as  
9 provided in this section and except on authorized emergency  
10 vehicles, school buses, snow-removal equipment and highway-  
11 marking equipment. Except as otherwise provided in this  
12 section, flashing red lights may be used as warning lights on  
13 disabled or parked vehicles and on any vehicle as a means of  
14 indicating a turn.

15 D. A recovery or repair vehicle standing on a  
16 highway for the purpose of removing, and actually engaged in  
17 removing, a disabled vehicle [~~and while engaged in towing a~~  
18 ~~disabled vehicle~~] may display flashing lights in any color  
19 except red. This provision shall not be construed as  
20 permitting the use of flashing lights by recovery or repair  
21 vehicles in going to or returning from the location of disabled  
22 vehicles [~~unless actually~~] or while engaged in towing a  
23 disabled vehicle.

24 E. Only fire department vehicles, law enforcement  
25 agency vehicles, ambulances and school buses may display

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1 flashing red lights visible from the front of the vehicle. All  
2 other vehicles authorized by the Motor Vehicle Code to display  
3 flashing lights visible from the front of the vehicle may use  
4 any other color of light that is visible."

5 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
6 provisions of this act is July 1, 2019.

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