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Failed to Pass Senate .....

House File 486

March 18, 1947.  
Passed on File.

By COMMITTEE ON MOTOR VEHICLES  
AND TRANSPORTATION.

## A BILL FOR

An Act relating to the clearance and identification lights, and color and mounting of lights, with relation to motor vehicles, and to definitions of words and phrases relating to motor vehicles.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

1 Section 1. Amend Section three hundred twenty-one point one  
2 (321.1), Code 1946, by adding a new section as follows:  
3 "The term "full trailer" means any motor vehicle, including  
4 any semitrailer equipped with a "dolly" (auxiliary front axle),  
5 other than a "pole trailer" or a motor vehicle transported in  
6 drive-away operations by means of a tow-bar, with or without  
7 motive power, designed to be drawn by another motor vehicle and  
8 so constructed that no part of its weight rests upon the towing  
9 vehicle."

1 Sec. 2. Amend Section three hundred twenty-one point one  
2 (321.1), Code, 1946, by adding a new section as follows:  
3 "The term "pole trailer" means any vehicle without motive  
4 power, possibly of variable wheel base, designed to be drawn by  
5 another vehicle, and attached to the towing vehicle by means of a  
6 "reach", or "pole", or by being "boomed" or otherwise secured to  
7 the towing vehicle, and ordinarily used for transporting long or

8 irregular-shaped loads such as poles, pipes, or structural members  
9 capable generally of sustaining themselves as beams between the  
10 supporting connections.”

1 Sec. 3. That Section three hundred twenty-one point three  
2 hundred ninety-two (321.392), Code 1946, be and the same is hereby  
3 repealed, and that Section three hundred twenty-one point three re-  
4 hundred ninety-three (321.393), Code 1946, be and the same is here-  
5 by repealed, and that the following is enacted as a substitute  
6 therefor:

7 “A. Equipment required on all motor vehicles. Every truck,  
8 truck tractor, trailer, semitrailer, full trailer, pole trailer or  
9 any combination thereof, shall be equipped with the following  
10 lighting devices and reflectors in addition to other requirements  
11 of this chapter and such devices shall be lighted at the times  
12 mentioned in Section 321.384, Code of Iowa, 1946.

13 (1) Every truck. On every truck, whatever its size, there  
14 shall be at least the following lighting devices and reflectors:

15 (a) On the front: two head lamps, one at each side.

16 (b) On the rear: one red tail lamp; one red or amber stop  
17 light; two red reflectors, one at each side.

18 (2) Every truck eighty (80) inches or more in width. On  
19 every truck eighty (80) inches or more in over-all width there  
20 shall be at least the following lighting devices and reflectors:

21 (a) On the front: two head lamps, one at each side; two  
22 amber clearance lamps, one at each side.

23 (b) On the rear: one red tail lamp; one red or amber stop

24 light; two red clearance lamps, one at each side; two red  
25 reflectors, one at each side.

26 (c) On each side: one amber side-marker lamp, located at or  
27 near the front; one red side-marker lamp, located at or near the  
28 rear; one amber reflector, located at or near the front; one red  
29 reflector, located at or near the rear.

30 (3) Every tractor. On every tractor there shall be at least  
31 the following lighting devices;

32 (a) On the front: two head lamps, one at each side; two  
33 amber clearance lamps, one at each side.

34 (b) On the rear: one red tail lamp; one red or amber stop light.

35 (4) Every semitrailer or full trailer in excess of three  
36 thousand (3000) pounds gross weight. On every semitrailer or full  
37 trailer having a gross weight in excess of three thousand (3000)  
38 pounds there shall be at least the following lighting devices and  
39 reflectors:

40 (a) On the front: two amber clearance lamps, one at each side.

41 (b) On the rear: one red tail lamp; one red or amber stop  
42 light; two red clearance lamps, one at each side; two red reflectors,  
43 one at each side.

44 (c) On each side; one amber side-marker lamp, located at or  
45 near the front; one red side-marker lamp, located at or near the  
46 rear; one amber reflector, located at or near the front; one red  
47 reflector, located at or near the rear.

48 (5) Every semitrailer or full trailer weighing three thousand  
49 (3000) pounds gross or less. On every semitrailer or full trailer

50 having a gross weight of three thousand (3000) pounds or less, there  
51 shall be at least the following lighting devices and reflectors:

52 (a) On the front: no requirement.

53 (b) On the rear: one red tail lamp; two red reflectors, one  
54 at each side; one red or amber stop light if the semitrailer or  
55 full trailer obscures the stop light on the towing vehicle.

56 (6) Every pole trailer. On every pole trailer there shall  
57 be at least the following lighting devices and reflectors:

58 (a) On the front: no requirement.

59 (b) On the rear: one red tail lamp; two red reflectors, one  
60 at each side, placed to indicate extreme width of the pole trailer  
61 or its load, whichever is wider.

62 (c) On each side, on the rearmost support for the load, one  
63 combination marker lamp showing amber to the front and red to the  
64 and rear, mounted to indicate maximum width of the pole trailer or  
65 load; one red reflector, located at or near the rear.

66 (7) Electric lamps to be mounted permanently. Where electric  
67 lamps are used to meet the requirements contained herein, they shall  
68 be securely and permanently affixed to the permanent structure of  
69 the motor vehicle, except for the combination marker lamps on pole  
70 trailers prescribed in paragraph (6-c) herein.

71 (8) Clearance lamps to indicate extreme width. Required  
72 clearance lamps shall be mounted in such manner as to indicate the  
73 extreme width of the motor vehicle and as near the top thereof as  
74 practicable.

75 (9) Side-marker lamps may be combined with clearance lamps.

76 Side-marker lamps may be in combination with clearance lamps and  
77 may use the same light sources.

78 (10) Color of lighting devices. The color of lighting devices  
79 shall be as follows:

80 (a) All front clearance lamps, and all side-marker lamps  
81 except the one on each side at or near the rear, on any truck,  
82 tractor, semitrailer, full trailer, or pole trailer, shall when  
83 lighted display an amber color.

84 (b) No red lighting device of any character shall be mounted  
85 at any place other than on or near the rear of any truck, tractor,  
86 semitrailer, full trailer, or pole trailer.

87 (c) All rear clearance lamps, the side-marker lamp on each  
88 side at or near the rear, and any other lamps mounted on the rear,  
89 on any truck, tractor, semitrailer, full trailer, or pole trailer,  
90 shall when lighted display a red color except as permitted by  
91 subparagraphs (d), (e), (f), and (g) of this rule.

92 (d) The stop light or other warning device on the rear of any  
93 motor vehicle may be red or amber.

94 (e) The color blue or purple may be used on the front and rear  
95 of any motor vehicle in a device to indicate the speed at which  
96 the motor vehicle is moving.

97 (f) Backing lights of any color may be mounted on the rear of  
98 any motor vehicle if the switch controlling such lights be so  
99 arranged that they may be turned on only when the motor vehicle is  
100 in reverse gear. Such backing lights when unlighted shall be  
101 so covered or otherwise arranged as not to reflect objectionable

102 glare in the eyes of drivers of vehicles approaching from the rear.

103 (g) No provision of this rule shall be so construed as to pro-  
104 hibit the use of any white light or lights for the purpose of  
105 illuminating license plates.

106 (11) Visibility of clearance, side-marker, and tail lamps.

107 Clearance, side-marker, and tail lamps shall when lighted be  
108 capable of being seen at a distance of 500 feet under normal  
109 atmospheric conditions during the time when lights are required.

110 The light from front clearance lamps shall be visible to the front,  
111 from side-marker lamps to the side, and from rear clearance and  
112 tail lamps to the rear, of the motor vehicle.

113 (12) Operation and visibility of stop light. Stop lights  
114 shall be actuated by application of the service (foot) brakes and  
115 shall be capable of being seen and distinguished from a distance  
116 of one hundred (100) feet to the rear of the motor vehicle in  
117 normal daylight; but shall not project a glaring or dazzling light.  
118 The stop light may be incorporated with the tail lamp.

119 (13) Mounting of reflectors. No reflector required by these  
120 regulations shall be mounted upon the motor vehicle at a height to  
121 exceed sixty (60) inches, nor less than twenty-four (24) inches,  
122 above the ground on which the motor vehicle stands.

123 (14) Visibility of reflectors. Every reflector shall be of  
124 such size and characteristics as to be readily visible at night  
125 from all distances within five hundred (500) feet to fifty (50)  
126 feet from the motor vehicle when directly in front of a normal  
127 headlight beam.

128 (15) Reflectors incorporated with tail lamps. One or both  
129 of the required rear red reflectors may be incorporated within  
130 the tail lamp or tail lamps, provided that any such tail lamps  
131 be located within the height limits specified for reflectors.  
132 Whether or not the rear reflectors are incorporated in tail lamps,  
133 they shall be located on the rear of the motor vehicle at opposite  
134 sides and shall also meet the requirements as to visibility set  
135 forth in subparagraph (14) herein.

136 (16) Color of reflectors. All reflectors mounted on any truck,  
137 tractor, semitrailer, full trailer, or pole trailer, shall reflect  
138 an amber color, except those placed on the rear and on the sides  
139 nearest to the rear thereof, which shall reflect a red color.

140 (17) Detachable electrical connections. Means for establish-  
141 ing electric connection between towing and towed vehicles, and other  
142 detachable electric connections, shall be mechanically and electri-  
143 cally adequate, free of short or open circuits. Suitable  
144 provision shall be made in every detachable connection to afford  
145 reasonable assurance against accidental disconnection. Precaution  
146 shall be taken to provide sufficient slack in the connecting wire  
147 or cable without twisting or kinking thereof.”

148 (18) Nothing contained in this act shall be construed to  
149 apply to equipment now in use or placed in use prior to the  
150 enactment of this law.

#### EXPLANATION OF H. F. 486

The purpose of this bill is to provide uniformity by bringing the laws of Iowa in line with the Motor Carrier Safety Regulations prescribed by the Interstate Commerce Commission.