

Senate File 241 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 241

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 27)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to requirements for the use of headlights, and
2 providing penalties.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.384, Code 2013, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 **321.384 When lighted lamps required.**

4 1. ~~Every~~ A motor vehicle upon operated on a highway within
5 ~~the state, at any time from~~ shall display lighted headlamps
6 as provided in section 321.415 during the following times,
7 subject to exceptions under this chapter with respect to parked
8 vehicles:

9 a. From sunset to sunrise, and at such other times when
10 conditions such as fog, snow, sleet, or rain provide.

11 b. Whenever atmospheric conditions require the use of
12 windshield wipers.

13 c. During any period of rain, drizzle, sleet, hail, snow,
14 blowing snow, freezing rain, or ground-level fog.

15 d. Whenever, due to insufficient lighting to render clearly
16 discernible or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons
17 and vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a
18 distance of five hundred one thousand feet ahead, shall display
19 lighted headlamps as provided in section 321.415, subject to
20 exceptions with respect to parked vehicles as hereinafter
21 stated.

22 2. ~~Whenever~~ A requirement is hereinafter declared as to in
23 this chapter regarding the distance from which certain lamps
24 and devices shall render objects visible or within which such
25 lamps or devices shall be visible, said provisions shall apply
26 during the times stated in subsection 1 of this section upon
27 a straight level unlighted highway under normal atmospheric
28 conditions unless a different time or condition is expressly
29 stated.

30 Sec. 2. Section 321.482A, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code
31 2013, is amended to read as follows:

32 Notwithstanding section 321.482, a person who is convicted
33 of operating a motor vehicle in violation of section 321.178,
34 subsection 2, paragraph "a", subparagraph (2), section
35 321.180B, subsection 6, section 321.194, subsection 1,

1 paragraph "c", section 321.256, ~~section~~ or 321.257, section
2 321.275, subsection 4, section 321.276, 321.297, 321.298,
3 321.299, 321.302, 321.303, 321.304, 321.305, 321.306, 321.307,
4 or 321.308, section 321.309, subsection 2, ~~or~~ section 321.311,
5 321.319, 321.320, 321.321, 321.322, 321.323, 321.324, 321.324A,
6 321.327, 321.329, or 321.333, ~~or~~ section 321.372, subsection
7 3, or section 321.384 causing serious injury to or the death
8 of another person may be subject to the following penalties in
9 addition to the penalty provided for a scheduled violation in
10 section 805.8A or any other penalty provided by law:

11 EXPLANATION

12 This bill amends Code section 321.384 to require the
13 operator of a motor vehicle to display lighted headlamps from
14 sunset to sunrise; whenever atmospheric conditions require
15 the use of windshield wipers; during any period of rain,
16 drizzle, sleet, hail, snow, blowing snow, freezing rain, or
17 ground-level fog; or whenever, due to insufficient lighting or
18 unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons and vehicles on
19 the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of 1,000
20 feet. Currently, the use of headlamps is required from sunset
21 to sunrise and at all other times when conditions such as fog,
22 snow, sleet, or rain provide insufficient lighting to clearly
23 see 500 feet ahead.

24 The penalty that currently applies to a violation of
25 requirements for headlight use applies to the new requirements
26 under the bill. A violation is a simple misdemeanor,
27 punishable by a scheduled fine of \$30. The bill adds a
28 violation of Code section 321.384 to the list of traffic
29 offenses for which additional penalties may be imposed for a
30 violation causing serious injury to or death of another person.
31 If the violation causes a serious personal injury, a court
32 could impose an additional fine of \$500 or suspend the person's
33 driver's license for not more than 90 days, or both. If the
34 violation causes a death, a court could impose an additional
35 fine of \$1,000 or suspend the person's driver's license for not

1 more than 180 days, or both.

2 The following Code sections contain provisions which are
3 linked to the times when headlamps are required under Code
4 section 321.384 and are therefore affected indirectly by the
5 bill:

6 Code section 321.235A, which requires the use of a headlight
7 and a rear reflector on an electric personal assistive mobility
8 device.

9 Code section 321.392, which requires the use of certain
10 lighting devices and reflectors on motor trucks.

11 Code section 321.394, which requires a red light to be
12 displayed on projecting loads.

13 Code section 321.395, which requires lighting on vehicles
14 stopped on an unlighted roadway or shoulder.

15 Code sections 321.397, 321.398, and 321.418, which describe
16 lighting requirements for bicycles, animal drawn vehicles, and
17 slow-moving vehicles.

18 Code section 321.405, which requires self-illumination of
19 mechanical signal devices.

20 Code sections 321.415 and 321.419, which provide
21 specifications for headlamps.