

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Regular Session, 2021

H. B. 22-51

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend 9 CMC § 4101 to add new subsections (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), and (k) to have restrictions related to the color of headlights, signal lights and brake lights on vehicles; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 22ND NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 **Section 1. Findings.** The Legislature finds that within recent years there
2 has been a resurgence of car customization or modification being done on vehicles
3 in the Commonwealth. The most popular and simple modification car enthusiasts
4 tend to do on their vehicles is headlights, signal lights, and brake lights
5 modification. These modifications are often done by taking the factory standard
6 headlights, signal lights, and brake-light bulbs and replacing them with either an
7 aftermarket halogen, LED, Xenon/HID, or laser bulbs of different colors. While
8 these modifications are not factory standards, owners usually install them for

1 personal, aesthetic, or visual enhancement as well as help the driver of a vehicle
2 navigate the road at night and improve visibility in bad weather conditions.

3 The Legislature further finds that the US Department of Transportation
4 (DOT) launched an investigation to determine whether blue headlights or any other
5 color headlights other than factory are safe for widespread use. The result is that
6 88% of drivers noticed a significant glare and visual impairment when facing blue
7 or any color headlights. Another study by the National Highway Traffic Safety
8 Administration found that blue lights or any color bulbs contribute to heavy glares
9 and late-night crashes. Yet, despite the clear dangers of these color lights, the DOT
10 has yet to take action. The Legislature finds that such impairment or risk it poses
11 on motorists related to the color of headlights, signal lights, and brake lights must
12 be restricted to help motorists on the public highway lower their risks of accidents.

13 **Section 2. Amendment.** 9 CMC § 4101 of the Commonwealth Code is
14 amended by adding new subsections (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), and (k) as follows:

15 “(f) Headlight colors shall be only white, hyper white, or amber colored
16 headlights.

17 (g) Stop lamps or taillights shall all be color red.

18 (h) License plate lights and back up lights shall only be white or hyper
19 white.

20 (i) Signal lights shall only be white, hyper white, or amber colored.

1 (j) Any vehicle that is in violation of sections (f),(g),(h), and (i) shall be
2 fined a fee of fifty (\$50) dollars.

3 (k) Only emergency vehicles may use colored lights.”

4 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of
5 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
6 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
7 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
8 shall not be affected thereby.

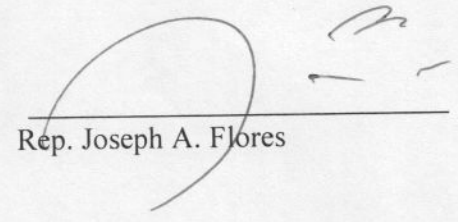
9 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
10 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
11 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
12 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
13 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have
14 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
15 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

16 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
17 the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

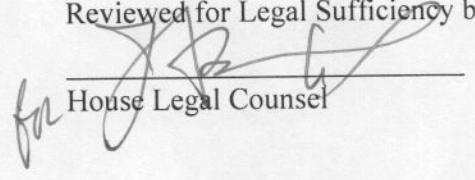
Prefiled: Apr. 7, 2021

Date: 4/7/2021

Introduced by:


Rep. Joseph A. Flores

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel