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Albany, New York

May 22, 2024

TO: All Enforcement Agencies and Magistrates

SUBJECT: Chapter 71 of the Laws of 2024 – Green lights on vehicles owned by members of mobile crisis teams

Effective June 5, 2024, Chapter 71 of the Laws of 2024 amends the Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) in relation to affixing and displaying a green light on vehicles owned by members of mobile crisis teams.

Paragraph 5 of subdivision 41 of VTL section 375 is amended to permit members of deployed mobile crisis teams to display a green light when engaged in an emergency operation.

To affix the green light, members of mobile crisis teams must receive written authorization from the mobile crisis team's director or person(s) in a similar role. Mobile crisis teams will be provided with materials for the express purpose of being trained on the lawful operation of a vehicle while displaying the green light.

A copy of Chapter 71 is attached for reference.

Please share this information with appropriate staff. Thank you.

Mark J.F. Schroeder
Commissioner

Attachment

LAWS OF NEW YORK, 2024

CHAPTER 71

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to the display of green lights on the vehicles of members of mobile crisis teams

Became a law February 7, 2024, with the approval of the Governor.

Passed by a majority vote, three-fifths being present.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Paragraph 5 of subdivision 41 of section 375 of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by a chapter of the laws of 2023 amending the vehicle and traffic law relating to the display of green lights on the vehicles of members of mobile crisis teams, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 5397 and A. 5604, is amended to read as follows:

5. Green light. (a) One green light may be affixed to any motor vehicle owned by a member of a volunteer ambulance service or by a member of a mobile crisis team, or on a motor vehicle owned by a member of such person's family, or by a business enterprise in which such person has a proprietary interest or by which he is employed, provided such member of a volunteer ambulance service has been authorized in writing to so affix a green light by the chief officer of such service as designated by the members thereof, or provided such member of a mobile crisis team has been authorized in writing to so affix a green light by the [~~office of mental health or the office of addiction services and supports~~] mobile crisis team's director or similar role, provided further that such director or similar role or their successor may revoke such authorization at any time. Such green light may be displayed exclusively by such member of a volunteer ambulance service, or a member of a deployed mobile crisis team, only when engaged in an emergency operation. The use of green lights on vehicles shall be restricted for use only by a member of a volunteer ambulance service or a member of a mobile crisis team as provided for in this paragraph except as otherwise provided for in subparagraph ~~(e)~~ (c) of this paragraph.

(b) As used in this paragraph the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(i) "volunteer ambulance service" means: (A) a non-profit membership corporation (other than a fire corporation) incorporated under or subject to the provisions of the membership corporations law, or any other law, operating its ambulance or ambulances on a non-profit basis for the convenience of the members thereof and their families or of the community or under a contract with a county, city, town or village pursuant to section one hundred twenty-two-b of the general municipal law; or

(B) an unincorporated association of persons operating its ambulance or ambulances on a non-profit basis for the convenience of the members and their families or of the community; and

(ii) "mobile crisis team" shall have the same meaning as mobile crisis

teams as defined by paragraph eleven of subdivision (a) of section 36.03 of the mental hygiene law[~~;~~ ~~and~~

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics is new; matter in brackets [~~-~~] is old law to be omitted.

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~~(iii) "office of mental health and office of addiction services and supports" shall mean the autonomous offices established within the department of mental hygiene pursuant to section 5.01 of the mental hygiene law].~~

(c)(i) In addition to the amber light authorized to be displayed pursuant to paragraph three of this subdivision, one or more green lights or combination green and amber lights may be affixed to a hazard vehicle designed for ice and snow removal owned and operated by the state or by a county, city, town or village. Such green light or lights may be displayed on a hazard vehicle designed for ice and snow removal owned and operated by the state or by a county, city, town or village when such vehicle is engaged in a hazardous operation and is also displaying the amber light or lights required to be displayed during a hazardous operation pursuant to paragraph three of this subdivision. Nothing contained in this subparagraph shall be deemed to authorize the use of green lights on hazard vehicles designed for ice and snow removal owned and operated by the state or by a county, city, town or village unless such hazard vehicles also display one or more amber lights as otherwise authorized in this subdivision.

(ii) The commissioner is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations relating to the use, placement, power and display of green lights on a hazard vehicle designed for ice and snow removal owned and operated by the state or by a county, city, town or village.

§ 2. The commissioner of motor vehicles, in consultation with the office of mental health and office of addiction services and supports, shall ensure materials are provided to mobile crisis teams for the express purpose of training mobile crisis team members on the lawful operation of a vehicle while displaying a green light as authorized pursuant to paragraph 5 of subdivision 41 of section 375 of the vehicle and traffic law.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2023 amending the vehicle and traffic law relating to the display of green lights on the vehicles of members of mobile crisis teams, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 5397 and A. 5604, takes effect.

The Legislature of the STATE OF NEW YORK ss:

Pursuant to the authority vested in us by section 70-b of the Public Officers Law, we hereby jointly certify that this slip copy of this session law was printed under our direction and, in accordance with such section, is entitled to be read into evidence.

ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS
Temporary President of the Senate

CARL E. HEASTIE
Speaker of the Assembly
