

HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	Senate File 551	House Committee:	PASSED 2/17/22 (15-4)
Committee:	Transportation	House Floor:	PASSED 3/24/22 (68-25)
Floor Manager:	Rep. Jacob Bossman	Senate Floor:	PASSED 3/17/21 (46-0)
Date:	March 24, 2022		PASSED 3/30/21 (47-1)
Staff:	Natalie Ginty (5-2063)	Governor:	SIGNED 5/24/22

Responding to Emergencies

- This bill allows fire department and EMS responders to exceed the speed limit if they are responding to an emergency call or fire alarm. Citations will be dismissed if the driver presents a signed statement from their fire chief or chief of EMS on the driver's response to an emergency call. This bill also allows personal vehicles of EMS personnel to have a blue light.

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1 – New Section – Fire fighters and emergency medical services members responding to emergency situations

Allows a paid or volunteer member of a fire department or EMS agency to exceed the speed limit if they are responding to an emergency call or fire alarm if they have emergency vehicle operations training. This section does not protect the driver if the driver has a reckless disregard for the safety of others.

This section states that a court must dismiss and expunge any record of excessive speed violations if they followed this section, and the driver presents to the court a signed statement from their fire chief or chief of EMS details about the driver's operation of the vehicle while responding to an emergency call. This section does not apply to a driver who holds a CDL or commercial learner's permit.

Section 2 (Iowa Code 321.423)

Adds that vehicles allowed a blue light on their personal vehicle because their fire chief signed off, must also have emergency vehicle operations training. Also updates Code to 2022.

Section 3 (Iowa Code 321.423)

Allows a blue light to be used by vehicles authorized by the chief officer of an EMS agency if the vehicle is owned by the member of the agency.

Section 4 (Iowa Code 321.423)

Makes a clarifying change based on the addition made in section 2 of the bill.