

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2014
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB954

Hearing Date: Monday February 24, 2014
Committee On: Transportation and Telecommunications
Introducer: Dubas
One Liner: Change rotating or flashing light provisions for certain vehicles

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 6 Senators Brasch, Dubas, Hadley, McCoy, Murante, Smith
Nay:
Absent: 2 Senators Janssen, Watermeier
Present Not Voting:

Proponents: Joselyn Luedtke Kristen Gottschalk Bruce Vitosh	Representing: Introducer Nebraska Rural Electric Association / Nebraska Power Association Norris Public Power District
Opponents:	Representing:
Neutral:	Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB954 was requested by the Rural Electric Association, seeking to improve safety for utility workers who stop roadside for utility infrastructure repairs, maintenance, or construction.
Amends 60-6,230, of the Rules of the Road, to allow vehicles operated by a public utility for construction, maintenance, and repair of utility infrastructure to use blue and amber rotating or flashing lights. Currently only snow removal vehicles operated by the Department of Roads or local authorities are allowed to use blue and amber flashing or rotating lights. Utilities are currently allowed to use amber flashing lights. Blue and amber lights are marketed to utilities, and studies show the improved safety when amber lights are used in conjunction with blue lights, but current law does not allow utility vehicles to use such blue lights.

Explanation of amendments:

AM2261 clarifies blue lights may only be used on vehicles owned and operated by utilities, to limit the use of blue lights by disallowing the use for entities contracting with a utility.

Annette Dubas, Chairperson