

HB 1445-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2002

12/04

HOUSE BILL            ***1445-FN***

AN ACT                relative to the identification of police vehicles.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Trottier, Belk. 6; Rep. Bordes, Belk. 3; Rep. O'Hara, Belk. 9; Rep. Littlefield,  
Belk. 3; Rep. Craig, Coos 4

COMMITTEE:          Transportation

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ANALYSIS

This bill requires certain law enforcement vehicles to display the agency name, law enforcement license plates, and emergency lights when being used for a valid law enforcement function.

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Explanation:          Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through.]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two*

AN ACT relative to the identification of police vehicles.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1           1 New Paragraph; Identification of Police Vehicles. Amend RSA 265:8 by inserting after  
2 paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

3           VIII.(a) All police vehicles being used for a valid law enforcement function shall be fully  
4 marked with visible identifiers, including:

5                   (1) The law enforcement agency's name on the driver and passenger sides of the  
6 vehicle.

7                   (2) Municipal, state, or county law enforcement license plates displayed on the front  
8 and rear of the vehicle. Said police vehicles shall not display a passenger license plate.

9                   (3) Emergency lights as defined in RSA 266:78-a, I(a), which are visible 360 degrees.

10           (b) This paragraph shall not apply to a police vehicle being used primarily for law  
11 enforcement functions involving surveillance, drug enforcement, or fugitive or wanted person  
12 apprehension.

13           (c) Police vehicles being used for administrative purposes only shall display the  
14 appropriate license plate pursuant to subparagraph (a)(2) and emergency lights pursuant to  
15 subparagraph (a)(3). Police vehicles being used to transport an officer for a court appearance or for  
16 training purposes are exempt from the requirements of paragraph (a)(2).

17           2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 1445-FN- FISCAL NOTE  
 AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to the identification of police vehicles.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**     State                     County                     Local                     None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
<b>Appropriation</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$0	\$318,550	\$16,620	\$16,620
<b>Funding Source:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - Turnpike

**COUNTY:**

<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable

**LOCAL:**

<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill requires certain law enforcement vehicles display the agency name, a law enforcement license plate, and emergency lights when utilized for law enforcement functions. The Department of Safety, Division of State Police, has more than 350 cruisers that are used by various troops and units, of which approximately 235 are patrol cruisers that already adhere to the proposed requirements. The remaining 115 state police cruisers are cruisers that all have 360-degree lighting and the state police license plate, however they are unmarked in various colors and do not have identifiable decals on the driver and passenger’s side door. These cruisers are primary assigned to detectives and administrative staff, however, also perform the functions of a patrol cruiser when traveling to and from assignments, when working in a patrol capacity on holidays, and when participating in special traffic enforcement initiatives and events. Therefore, it is assumed all of these vehicles would need to adhere to the proposed requirements. The Department’s estimates the cost to mark the cruisers would be \$2,770 per cruiser (\$2,650 for paint and \$120 for decals) and a total cost of \$318,550 for all 115 cruisers. Furthermore, the Department states these cruisers are replaced at a rate of approximately 5%, or six, per year. Therefore, there would be an ongoing cost of \$16,620 per year (six cruisers X \$2,770). It is assumed all costs would be incurred beginning in FY 2023.

The Fish and Game Department states this bill would have no impact on its budget as all its vehicles subject to this requirement are already in compliance.

The requirements of this bill would apply to county and local law enforcement agencies, however, the number of vehicles this would apply to that are currently not in compliance is not known, therefore this bill's impact, if any, on county and local expenditures in FY 2023 and each year thereafter is indeterminable.

It is assumed any fiscal impact would not occur until after FY 2022.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Departments of Safety, Fish and Game Department, New Hampshire Association of Counties, and New Hampshire Municipal Association