

HB 1601 – AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

12Mar2014... 0265h

2014 SESSION

14-2307
03/05

HOUSE BILL ***1601***

AN ACT relative to mandatory headlamp use.

SPONSORS: Rep. Manley, Hills 3

COMMITTEE: Transportation

ANALYSIS

This bill modifies when drivers must use headlamps.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fourteen

AN ACT relative to mandatory headlamp use.

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

1 1 Use of Lights. Amend RSA 265:109 to read as follows:

2 265:109 Period of Lighting. Every vehicle or combination of vehicles, whether stationary or in
3 motion, on any way or bridge, shall have attached to it a light or lights, which shall be so displayed
4 as to be visible from the front and rear, during the period from [~~1/2 hour after~~] sunset to [~~1/2 hour~~
5 ~~before~~] sunrise.

6 2 Headlamps; When Use is Required. Amend RSA 266:31 to read as follows:

7 266:31 Front Lights. Every motor vehicle driven during the period from [~~1/2 hour after~~] sunset
8 to [~~1/2 hour before~~] sunrise, and whenever ***fog or precipitation in the form of rain***^[5] ***or snow***^[5] ~~or fog shall interfere with the proper view of the road so that persons and vehicles on the way are not~~
9 ~~clearly discernible at a distance of 1000 feet ahead] ***is present***, shall display at least 2 lighted lamps
10 on the front; provided, however, that one suitable lighted lamp on the front of a motorcycle shall be
11 sufficient. The headlamp shall throw sufficient light ahead within the travelled portion of the way to
12 make clearly visible all vehicles, persons, or substantial objects within a distance of 200 feet, except
13 that the headlamps of motorcycles shall be sufficient if they make clearly visible objects within a
14 distance of 150 feet. No headlamp shall be used unless it is approved by the director and is equipped
15 with a proper lens or other device designed to prevent glaring rays. All headlamps on every motor
16 vehicle shall be located at a height of not more than 54 inches nor less than 24 inches from the
17 ground on an unladen vehicle. The measurement shall be made from the ground to the center of the
18 lens. No device which obstructs, reflects, or alters the beam of such headlamp shall be used in
19 connection therewith unless approved by the director. Every lens or other device to prevent glaring
20 rays, the use of which on motor vehicles has been approved by the director, shall be arranged,
21 adjusted, and operated in accordance with the requirements of the certificate approving the use
22 thereof. Every lamp, bulb, or light used in any headlamp shall be of such candle power as may be
23 specified for the approved device in the certificate approving the use thereof. Every reflector which is
24 used as a part of such headlamp shall have a reflecting surface approved by the director after
25 satisfactory tests have been made, and every reflecting surface shall be free from dents, rust, and
26 other imperfections. The driver of every motor vehicle shall permit any properly authorized person
27 to inspect the headlighting equipment of such motor vehicle and to make such tests as he ***or she*** may
28 deem necessary to determine whether the provisions of this section are being complied with.~~

29 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2015.
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