



www.lsc.ohio.gov

OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 30
134th General Assembly

Final Analysis

[Click here for H.B. 30's Fiscal Note](#)

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Wiggam and Kick

Effective date: August 31, 2022

Helena Volzer, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Alters slow-moving vehicle (SMV) emblem and reflective tape requirements that apply to animal-drawn vehicles by requiring the operator of such a vehicle to equip and display, at all times, **at least** one of the following on the rear of the vehicle:
 - An SMV emblem;
 - Micro-prism reflective tape (in red, amber, white, or silver); or
 - Both an SMV emblem and micro-prism tape.
- Requires an animal-drawn vehicle operator, when on a street or highway, to also equip and display, at all times, one flashing lamp displaying yellow light.
- Specifies that the yellow flashing light must be mounted on the top-most portion of the rear of the animal-drawn vehicle and must be visible from all sides of the vehicle.
- Retains the requirement that an animal-drawn vehicle operator equip and display the following from sunset to sunrise and during periods of low visibility:
 - At least one white lamp to the front; and
 - Two red lamps to the rear or, as an alternative, one red lamp and two red reflectors.
- Exempts animal-drawn agricultural equipment from the lighting and reflective tape requirements, including the yellow light requirement established by the act, if the operator is not transporting any livestock or a person other than the operator.
- Reorganizes and recodifies the law governing all slow-moving vehicles.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Animal-drawn vehicles

The act revises the lighting, slow-moving vehicle (SMV) emblem, and reflective tape requirements that apply to animal-drawn vehicles when operated on a street or highway. The

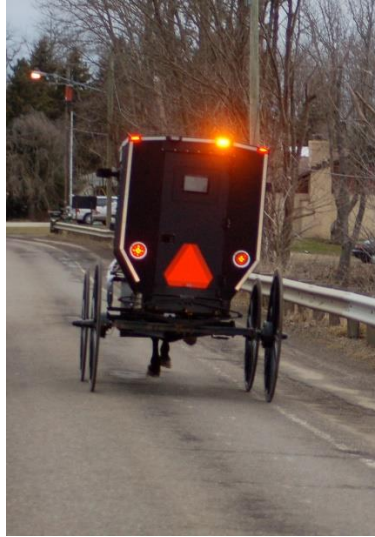
table below illustrates what must be displayed on an animal-drawn vehicle and when the requirements apply, both under prior law and the act.¹

Time when required	Prior law	The act
Sunset to sunrise (and periods of low visibility)	Both of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At least one white lamp to the front; and ▪ Two red lamps to the rear (or, as an alternative, one red lamp and two red reflectors). 	Same.
At all times (day or night)	At least one of the following to the rear: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SMV emblem; ▪ Alternative reflective material (minimally in black, grey, or silver); or ▪ Both. 	One yellow flashing lamp displaying yellow light mounted either on the top-most portion of the rear of the animal-drawn vehicle or otherwise on the top of the vehicle, visible from at least 1,000 feet, and at least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An SMV emblem to the rear; ▪ Micro-prism reflective tape to the rear (must be red, amber, white, or silver); or ▪ Both an SMV emblem and the micro-prism tape to the rear.

The Director of Public Safety must adopt rules establishing standards and specifications for the position and mounting of the flashing yellow light and micro-prism reflective tape.² The picture below illustrates a close approximation of the lighting required under the act on the rear of an animal-drawn vehicle, including an SMV emblem, reflective material, and a flashing yellow light (along with red reflectors and red lamps).

¹ R.C. 4513.114.

² R.C. 4513.114(C).



Animal-drawn vehicle displaying all of the lamps, reflective materials, and emblems, Photo credit: Bruce Stambaugh, <https://brucestambaugh.com/tag/amish-safety-committee/>.

Visibility requirements

Under the act, the micro-prism reflective tape must be visible from 500 feet when illuminated by headlights. (The reflective material required under prior law also had to be visible from 500 feet when illuminated by headlights.) Under continuing law, red and white lamps must be visible from 1,000 feet and an SMV emblem must be visible from 500 feet. Any red reflectors used on the rear of an animal-drawn vehicle must be visible from 600 to 100 feet when illuminated by headlights.³

Flashing lights

Because the act requires the use of a yellow flashing light visible from 1,000 feet (shown in the table above), it clarifies that the prohibition against the use of flashing lights on motor vehicles does not apply to animal-drawn vehicles.⁴

Penalty

The act retains the criminal penalty (minor misdemeanor) that applies when a person operating an animal-drawn vehicle violates any lighting, SMV emblem, or reflective material requirements.⁵

Exemption for animal-drawn agricultural equipment

The act exempts animal-drawn agricultural equipment (e.g., a plow, manure spreader, or thresher) from the act's lighting and reflective tape requirements, provided the operator is

³ R.C. 4513.114(A) and (B).

⁴ R.C. 4513.17(C)(3).

⁵ R.C. 4513.114(E).

not transporting any livestock or a person other than the operator. This exemption includes an exemption from the new yellow light requirement. However, the animal-drawn agricultural equipment still must display the SMV emblem at all times.⁶

Slow-moving vehicles

The act clarifies, reorganizes, and recodifies the law governing slow-moving vehicles by separating statutory provisions into shorter individual sections.⁷ In so doing, the act repeals an expired tax credit (for the cost of equipping multi-wheel agricultural tractors with lights and reflectors) and any references to it.⁸ The act clarifies that any violation of SMV requirements or animal-drawn vehicle requirements is a strict liability offense.⁹

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-03-21
Reported, H. Transportation & Public Safety	03-10-21
Passed House (85-6)	04-15-21
Reported, S. Transportation	03-16-22
Passed Senate (31-0)	05-18-22

22-ANHB30EN-134/ks

⁶ R.C. 4511.114(D).

⁷ R.C. 4511.216, 4513.11, 4513.111, 4513.112, 4513.113, and 4513.114.

⁸ R.C. 5733.98, repealed by the act and R.C. 5733.98(A)(8).

⁹ R.C. 4513.115.