

2018

Using Caution Around Emergency Vehicles

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Recommended Citation

Carenbauer, Ilona, "Using Caution Around Emergency Vehicles" (2018). *Honors Projects*. 15.
https://researchrepository.wvu.edu/honors_projects/15

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Using Caution Around Emergency Vehicles

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Bill 2867

- Increases penalties against drivers who fail to use due caution when approaching emergency vehicles with the emergency lights turned on.
- Depending on the severity of violation, an individual can be fined \$1,000 for neglecting to use caution or \$2,000-5,000 if violating sections one and two misdemeanor, face imprisonment and/or suspension of driving privileges

Support for this Bill

In support of increasing penalties when failing to use caution when approaching emergency vehicles with emergency lights on.

NOT Using Due Caution Could:

Increase potential danger and harm to others on the road

- Increases potential danger and harm to others on and/or near the road including:
 - Individuals in other vehicles
 - Pedestrians
 - Bikers
 - Wildlife
- E.g. a vehicle being pursued by a police car was the one causing the reckless driving, and this resulted in four individuals, including a one-year-old boy, getting killed (Boyle).

Negatively affect the work of emergency workers

- Reckless driving is a distraction, especially to emergency workers in high stress situations
- E.g. a car maintained its speed while driving by a pulled over ambulance using its emergency lights at night; the person driving did not see an emergency worker next to the ambulance on the road side of the vehicle, therefore nearly hitting the worker
- Emergency workers are working to help the public, but when put in harm's way, this could cause mistakes in care or even harm to the workers themselves

Cause a Delay in Care

- Emergency workers put in harm's way → this potentially decreases the availability of emergency workers → the public in need of help have an increased delay in care → potentially more harm
- E.g. a driving civilian refuses to keep right for a passing ambulance with emergency lights on, and that ambulance is obstructed from getting to whatever emergency situation is awaiting; therefore, care is delayed
- E.g. a video was posted on the Mountaineer Snapchat in which a student stood in the street dancing in front of a fire truck that had its emergency lights on.
 - This defeats the purpose of “first response,” and delays like this potentially amplify the dangers of the emergency situation.

Summary Statement / What is the Impact?

- Enhancing penalties for instances like these in which people fail to use caution, or purposely inflict mischief, could cause a decline in vehicular assault and emergency delays, and an increase in first response action.
- Policy should provide funds for public education to inform civilians on the importance of using caution, and the severity of the consequences. This bill passing could be good for both the public and emergency workers.