

HB 419 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0748

06/09

HOUSE BILL **419**

AN ACT requiring vehicle headlights to be on when windshield wipers are also on.

SPONSORS: Rep. Jones, Ches. 3; Rep. Johnson, Straf. 11; Rep. Plamondon, Hills. 3

COMMITTEE: Transportation

ANALYSIS

This bill requires that headlights must be turned on whenever windshield wipers are in use.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT requiring vehicle headlights to be on when windshield wipers are also on.

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

1 1 Front Lights; Windshield Wipers. Amend RSA 266:31, I to read as follows:

2 I. Every motor vehicle driven during the period from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before
3 sunrise, and whenever rain, snow, or fog shall interfere with the proper view of the road so that
4 persons and vehicles on the way are not clearly discernible at a distance of 1,000 feet ahead, **and**
5 ***whenever windshield wipers are active***, shall display at least 2 lighted lamps on the front;
6 provided, however, that one suitable lighted lamp on the front of a motorcycle shall be sufficient.
7 The headlamp shall throw sufficient light ahead within the traveled portion of the way to make
8 clearly visible all vehicles, persons, or substantial objects within a distance of 200 feet, except that
9 the headlamps of motorcycles shall be sufficient if they make clearly visible objects within a distance
10 of 150 feet. No headlamp shall be used unless it is approved by the director and is equipped with a
11 proper lens or other device designed to prevent glaring rays. All headlamps on every motor vehicle
12 shall be located at a height of not more than 54 inches nor less than 24 inches from the ground on an
13 unladen vehicle. The measurement shall be made from the ground to the center of the lens. No
14 device which obstructs, reflects, or alters the beam of such headlamp shall be used in connection
15 therewith unless approved by the director. Every lens or other device to prevent glaring rays, the
16 use of which on motor vehicles has been approved by the director, shall be arranged, adjusted, and
17 operated in accordance with the requirements of the certificate approving the use thereof. Every
18 lamp, bulb, or light used in any headlamp shall be of such candle power as may be specified for the
19 approved device in the certificate approving the use thereof. Every reflector which is used as a part
20 of such headlamp shall have a reflecting surface approved by the director after satisfactory tests
21 have been made, and every reflecting surface shall be free from dents, rust, and other imperfections.
22 The driver of every motor vehicle shall permit any properly authorized person to inspect the
23 headlighting equipment of such motor vehicle and to make such tests as he or she may deem
24 necessary to determine whether the provisions of this section are being complied with. Any
25 headlamp color approved by the director for motor vehicles shall be considered approved for
26 motorcycles. Any headlamp color approved by the director for motor vehicles shall also apply to
27 headlamps approved for motorcycles.

28 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.