

BILL NUMBER: AB 1385
VETOED DATE: 10/12/2009

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1385 without my signature.

This bill would authorize specified peace officers, more specifically arson investigators, employed by fire departments to use blue warning lights on authorized emergency vehicles (AEV). The bill's sponsor asserts that arson investigators are often plain clothed and drive unmarked vehicles, and as a result need the use of blue lights to be more recognizable. However, the use of blue lights would not establish the individual's identity as a peace officer without displaying some form of police identification. Additionally, all AEVs in California, including law enforcement vehicles, are required to have at least one forward facing solid red light. Since there is no legal requirement for motorists to yield to a blue warning light, I fail to see the necessity for the addition of a blue light.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger