

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 528

2 INTRODUCED BY T. WELCH

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CLARIFYING THAT LIGHT BARS MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED
5 SPOT LAMPS, FOG LAMPS, OR AUXILIARY LAMPS; ALLOWING THE USE OF LIGHT BARS FOR OFF-ROAD
6 USE ~~ONLY~~ AND FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY OR POLICE VEHICLES; PROHIBITING A LIGHT BAR FROM
7 SHINING LIGHT ONTO OR ACROSS A HIGHWAY; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 61-9-217 AND 61-9-225,
8 MCA."

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10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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12 **Section 1.** Section 61-9-217, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **"61-9-217. Spot lamps, fog lamps, and auxiliary lamps -- light bars excluded.** (1) A motor vehicle
14 may not be equipped with more than two spot lamps and a lighted spot lamp must be turned off upon approaching
15 another moving vehicle from either direction.

16 (2) A motor vehicle may not be equipped with more than two fog lamps that provide a low, wide-angle
17 light pattern to increase short-range visibility. Fog lamps must be mounted on the front at a height not more than
18 30 inches above the level surface upon which the vehicle stands and so aimed that when the vehicle is not loaded
19 none of the high-intensity portion of the light to the left of the center of the vehicle at a distance of 25 feet ahead
20 projects higher than a level of 4 inches below the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes. Lighted fog
21 lamps meeting the requirements of this subsection may be used with lower headlamp beams as specified in
22 61-9-220(2). A fog lamp may not be used as a substitute for headlamps.

23 (3) A motor vehicle may not be equipped with more than two auxiliary driving lamps that produce a
24 long-range, pencil-shaped light pattern and that are used to supplement the upper beams of headlamps. Auxiliary
25 driving lamps must be mounted on the front at a height not less than 16 inches or more than 42 inches above the
26 level surface upon which the vehicle stands. The provisions of 61-9-220 apply to a combination of headlamps
27 and auxiliary driving lamps. An auxiliary driving lamp may not be used as a substitute for headlamps or lighted
28 at any time the headlamps are required to be on in the low-beam position.

29 (4) An auxiliary off-road lamp mounted more than 42 inches above the level surface upon which the
30 vehicle stands may not be lighted while the vehicle is operated or parked on a highway.

