

**SB 443 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Business and General Government**

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**Meeting Dates:** 2/21, 4/9

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires use of headlights at all times when vehicle is being driven upon a highway.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Potential safety benefits of mandatory headlight use
- Impact of mandatory headlight use on older vehicles
- Current process for enforcing traffic violations and potential impact of new violation on drivers

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Current statute requires drivers to use headlights bright enough to reveal persons and vehicles on the highway at a safe distance in advance of the vehicle when limited visibility conditions exist. Failure to use headlights when required for limited visibility is a Class B traffic violation.

A 2017 review of multiple studies by the National Law Review concluded that turning on headlights while driving may reduce chances of being in an accident. The review notes that Denmark saw a 37 percent reduction in left turn related incidents after requiring daytime running lights, and Canada saw an 11 percent reduction in multiple vehicle crashes after enacting a similar measure.

Senate Bill 443 requires headlights to be used whenever a vehicle is being driven on any public road; failure to do so would be a Class B traffic violation.