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**CONTACT:**

Savannah Peifer  
Office of Representative Robin Bartleman  
[Savannah.Peifer@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Savannah.Peifer@myfloridahouse.gov)  
850.717.5103

## **Representatives Robin Bartleman and Lauren Melo Pass Bill to Allow Fire Departments to use Blue Warning Lights**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Today, [House Bill 463](#) – Lights Displayed on Fire Department Vehicles passed the House floor with full bipartisan support. The bill and its Senate counterpart, sponsored by **Representative Robin Bartleman (D-Weston)**, **Representative Lauren Melo (R-Naples)**, and **Senator Jennifer Bradley (R-Fleming Island)**, allow the use of blue warning lights on government-owned fire trucks that weigh over 24,000 pounds. This bill authorizes the use of these lights on the rear of vehicles.

Studies conducted by The Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Responders Safety Institute, and others show that blue lights are more visible during the night, while red lights are most visible during the day. Twenty-nine other states allow their firefighters to use a combination of blue and red lights to better protect their first responders; however, Florida prohibits fire departments from using blue emergency lights. This bill enhances visibility and effectiveness in responding to emergencies and operating at emergency scenes, especially at night. **Representative Bartleman, Representative Melo, and Senator Bradley** worked closely with the Florida Fire Chiefs Association and other law enforcement agencies to ensure public safety.

“Every first responder deserves to come home to their families at the end of their shift; and this legislation is another safeguard to protect our first responders. Studies show a combination of blue and red lights are more effective at night. This proactive approach demonstrates our commitment to prioritize the well-being of those who protect us every day,” said **Representative Bartleman**.

“This measure ensures that our firefighters are equipped with the tools they need to safely respond to emergencies. This lets them be more visible and coordinated when responding to urgent situations, ultimately improving how we handle crises,” **Representative Melo** said.

“This bill goes the extra mile to support our first responders. This is one additional safety precaution we can take to help protect those who protect us,” said **Senator Bradley**.

The Florida Sheriffs Association, International Union of Police Association Local 6020, and the Florida Fire Chiefs Association were also in support of this legislation. “The nearly 2,000 members of the Florida Fire Chief’s Association would like to thank all of our elected

officials for passing this common-sense legislation which will save the lives of our firefighters across this great state,” said **Harold Theus, President of the Florida Fire Chiefs Association.**

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