

SNOWPLOW WARNING LIGHT LAW UPDATED

In January 2026, Governor Philip Murphy signed into law an amendment to Title 39. R.S. 39:3-54 now has the following new language:

Under the authority of the Department of Transportation and without any additional permit required by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, in addition to the amber light authorized to be displayed pursuant to subsection a. of this section, one or more green lights may be affixed to any motor vehicle that is used for the removal or prevention of ice and snow on roadways, and which vehicle is owned and operated by the State, any bi-state or interstate governmental agency or authority, or any local government unit, or is contracted by the Department of Transportation for such use, except that the green lights may only be displayed on such vehicle when the vehicle is engaged in an operation that presents a vehicular traffic hazard that requires the exercise of unusual care in approaching, overtaking, or passing the vehicle, and the vehicle also displays the amber light or lights required pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

New Jersey permits green warning lights on snowplows to significantly boost visibility and safety for both motorists and road crews during winter storms. Research shows that green lights are more distinguishable in poor weather (like snow or fog) and contrast better with white backgrounds. It is anticipated that this will reduce accidents by alerting drivers to the hazard ahead and the presence of snowplow operations. This follows successful implementation in other states like Michigan and Ohio. This change also makes the snow removal vehicles more recognizable as official State, county, or municipal vehicles, distinguishing them from private plows.

Agency leaders must now consider changing to green and amber lights as new snow plows are purchased and when replacing damaged warning lights and lenses.