

**Introduced by Senator Dodd**  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry)

February 3, 2020

---

An act to amend Section 27002, relating to emergency vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 909, as introduced, Dodd. Emergency vehicles.

Existing law prohibits any vehicle, other than an authorized emergency vehicle, from being equipped with a siren. Existing law requires an emergency vehicle to be equipped with a siren that meets requirements set forth by the Department of the California Highway Patrol.

Existing regulations of the California Highway Patrol define a “hi-lo” to be a nonsiren sound alternating between a fixed high and a fixed low frequency and require the “hi-lo” function to be disabled on any siren manufactured after January 1, 1978.

This bill would authorize an emergency vehicle to be equipped with a “hi-lo” audible warning sound and would authorize the “hi-lo” to be used solely for the purpose of notifying the public of an immediate need to evacuate.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 27002 of the Vehicle Code is amended
- 2 to read:
- 3 27002. (a) No vehicle, except an authorized emergency
- 4 vehicle, shall be equipped with, nor shall any person use upon a
- 5 vehicle any siren except that an authorized emergency vehicle

1 shall be equipped with a siren meeting requirements established  
2 by the department.

3 *(b) An emergency vehicle may also be equipped with a Hi-Lo*  
4 *audible warning sound that may only be used for the purposes of*  
5 *notifying the public of an immediate evacuation in case of an*  
6 *emergency.*

7 *(c) As used in this section, a “Hi-Lo” is an audible warning*  
8 *sound that alternates between a fixed high and a fixed low*  
9 *frequency. A “Hi-Lo” is not a siren.*