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(PRE-FILED)

HB 1115/96 - CGM

By: ~~Delegate Campbell~~ Delegates Campbell, Minnick, Rosenberg, and McIntosh

Requested: June 25, 1996

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 1997

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 18, 1997

CHAPTER ____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Display of Amber Flashing Lights - ~~Citizens on Patrol~~ Community Patrols**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing "~~Citizens on Patrol~~" participants in a Citizens on Patrol
4 group or other community watch group to display amber flashing lights while on
5 patrol, if allowed by ~~the local police department~~ a certain law enforcement agency,
6 and unless a uniformed ~~police~~ law enforcement officer instructs them to extinguish
7 the amber flashing lights; providing that the law enforcement agency may require
8 that a certain sign appear on a vehicle while an amber flashing light is displayed;
9 and generally relating to the display of amber flashing lights.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article - Transportation
12 Section 22-218.2
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article - Transportation**

18 22-218.2.

19 (A) One or more amber flashing lights may be displayed:

20 (1) By a tow truck while at the scene of an accident or a disabled vehicle or
21 while towing a vehicle; {and}

2

1 (2) By snow removal and other highway maintenance and service equipment
2 and escort vehicles; ~~AND~~

3 ~~(3) BY "CITIZENS ON PATROL":~~

4 ~~(I) WHILE ON PATROL;~~

5 ~~(II) IF ALLOWED BY THE LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT; AND~~

6 ~~(III) UNLESS A UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICER INSTRUCTS THEM TO~~
7 ~~EXTINGUISH THE AMBER FLASHING LIGHTS.~~

8 (B) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A PARTICIPANT
9 IN A CITIZENS ON PATROL GROUP OR OTHER COMMUNITY WATCH GROUP MAY
10 DISPLAY ON A VEHICLE WHILE ON PATROL IN THE COMMUNITY ONE OR MORE
11 AMBER FLASHING LIGHTS.

12 (2) AN AMBER FLASHING LIGHT:

13 (I) MAY ONLY BE DISPLAYED IF ALLOWED BY A LAW
14 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
15 APPLICABLE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION; AND

16 (II) SHALL BE EXTINGUISHED AT THE REQUEST OF A UNIFORMED
17 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.

18 (3) THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY REQUIRE THAT A SIGN
19 MEETING SPECIFICATIONS SET BY THE AGENCY APPEAR ON THE VEHICLE THAT
20 IDENTIFIES THE GROUP CONDUCTING THE PATROL WHILE THE AMBER FLASHING
21 LIGHT IS DISPLAYED.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 1997.