
By: **Senator Forehand**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Emergency Vehicle Privileges - Use of Audible Signal**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that an emergency vehicle that is parked or standing
4 may exercise certain emergency vehicle privileges without using any audible
5 signal; and generally relating to emergency vehicles.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article - Transportation
8 Section 21-106
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

13 **Article - Transportation**

14 21-106.

15 (a) Subject to the conditions stated in this section, the driver of an emergency
16 vehicle registered in any state may exercise the privileges set forth in this section
17 while:

- 18 (1) Responding to an emergency call;
- 19 (2) Pursuing a violator or suspected violator of the law; or
- 20 (3) Responding to, but not while returning from, a fire alarm.

21 (b) Under the circumstances stated in subsection (a) of this section, the driver
22 of an emergency vehicle may:

- 23 (1) Park or stand without regard to the other provisions of this title;
- 24 (2) Pass a red or stop signal, a stop sign, or a yield sign, but only after
25 slowing down as necessary for safety;

1 (3) Exceed any maximum speed limit, but only so long as the driver does
2 not endanger life or property; and

3 (4) Disregard any traffic control device or regulation governing direction
4 of movement or turning in a specified direction.

5 (c) (1) The privileges set forth in this section apply only while the
6 emergency vehicle is using audible and visual signals that meet the requirements of §
7 22-218 of this article, except that:

8 (I) [an] AN emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle need not
9 be equipped with or display the visual signals; AND

10 (II) AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE, WHILE PARKED OR STANDING, NEED
11 NOT USE AN AUDIBLE SIGNAL.

12 (2) The driver of an emergency vehicle may not use flashing lights or a
13 bell, siren, or exhaust whistle while returning from an emergency call or fire alarm,
14 except that fire apparatus carrying standing firemen may use flashing lights that are
15 visible only to the rear.

16 (d) This section does not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle from the
17 duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 1999.