

SB1030-ET-FAV.pdf

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Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
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SB1030

April 1, 2025

TO: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: SB1030 - Baltimore County and Baltimore City - Vehicle Laws - Lighting on Privately Owned Vehicles

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 1030.

SB 1030 clarifies existing state law to specifically authorize nonprofit volunteer emergency medical organizations with commercial ambulance services licenses in Baltimore City and Baltimore County to equip up to five of their highest-ranking officers' privately owned vehicles with emergency lights. These lights, which may be red or red-and-white, can only be used while the officers are en route to or at the scene of an emergency.

Baltimore City has a significant number of calls for service each year and nonprofit volunteer emergency medical organizations can provide critical support for calls for service when our emergency medical services teams are already deployed on calls throughout the City. Given that duly constituted volunteer fire departments or rescue squads are already authorized to equip and display this type of vehicle lighting, this legislation merely clarifies that nonprofit volunteer emergency medical organizations operating under a commercial ambulance service license are afforded the same permission.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 1030.

SB1030 - MVA - LOI - Baltimore County and Baltimor

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Position: INFO



Wes Moore
Governor
Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor
Paul J. Wiedefeld
Secretary

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment & Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 1030 – Baltimore County and Baltimore City - Vehicle Laws - Lighting on Privately Owned Vehicles

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 1030 and offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

SB 1030 would allow up to five individuals who are the highest-ranking officers for certain nonprofit volunteer emergency medical services organizations located in Baltimore County and Baltimore City to equip their privately owned vehicles with red or red and white lights or signal devices for use in driving to or while at the scene of an emergency. The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) would be required to process authorization requests for approval of each vehicle granted authorization.

The MVA has met with a local volunteer rescue squad on this issue previously and has advised that it cannot authorize emergency light use for personal officers of the organization without changing current law. MDOT respects the value of community-based emergency medical services and their network of volunteers but seeks clarification regarding the authorization created by SB 1030. While the bill authorizes “no more than five of the highest-ranking officers” in each nonprofit volunteer emergency medical organization located in Baltimore County or Baltimore City to utilize the lights in question on their personal vehicles, MVA’s understanding is that some of these organizations are comprised of multiple sub-organizations, each with their own officers. If each sub-organization is authorized to request lighting for five of its highest-ranking officers, there is the potential for a cumulative total of more than five permitted personal vehicles per organization.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 1030.

Respectfully submitted,

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