

HOUSE BILL 74

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R6
HB 25/97 - CGM

1998 Regular Session
8lr0744

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegates Campbell, Minnick, Rosenberg, McIntosh, and Mohorovic**

Requested: November 12, 1997

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 1998

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Display of Amber Flashing Lights - Community Patrols**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing participants in a Citizens on Patrol group or other
4 community watch group to display amber flashing lights while on patrol, if
5 allowed by a certain law enforcement agency, and unless a uniformed law
6 enforcement officer instructs them to extinguish the amber flashing lights;
7 providing that the law enforcement agency may require that a certain sign
8 appear on a vehicle while an amber flashing light is displayed; and generally
9 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 1997 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
21 or while towing a vehicle; and

22 (2) By snow removal and other highway maintenance and service
23 equipment and escort vehicles.

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

1 (2) AN AMBER FLASHING LIGHT:

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

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

7 (3) THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY REQUIRE THAT A SIGN
8 MEETING SPECIFICATIONS SET BY THE AGENCY APPEAR ON THE VEHICLE THAT
9 IDENTIFIES THE GROUP CONDUCTING THE PATROL WHILE THE AMBER FLASHING
10 LIGHT IS DISPLAYED.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 1998.