

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 387

(Delegate Conway, *et al.*)

Commerce and Government Matters

Judicial Proceedings

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Vehicle Laws - Fire and Rescue Vehicles - Use of Lights or Signal Devices

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This bill requires, at the discretion of the officer in charge, the driver of an emergency vehicle of a fire department or rescue squad to flash, oscillate, or otherwise use red and white lights or signal devices while stopped, standing, or parked on the roadway at the scene of an emergency.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. The bill is procedural in nature and would not directly affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** An emergency vehicle may flash, oscillate, or otherwise use its lights while on route to or at the scene of an emergency. The driver of an emergency vehicle may also use flashing lights within 100 feet of an entrance ramp of a fire or rescue station while parking or backing an emergency vehicle.

**Background:** Maryland fire vehicles use red and white oscillating lights. The driver of an emergency vehicle may flash, oscillate, or otherwise use the blue, red, or white lights or signal devices only while on route to or at the scene of an emergency, or within 100 feet of the entrance ramp of a fire or rescue station while parking or backing the emergency vehicle. The National Fire Protection Association standards recommend that

white lights automatically turn off when the parking brake is set, a practice that many Maryland firefighters believe is dangerous to emergency personnel. Manufacturers adhere to this standard and will not change this adherence unless shielded from liability by State law.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Transportation, Annals of Emergency Medicine,  
Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 13, 2002  
lsc/jr Revised - House Third Reader - March 19, 2002

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