
By: **Senators Hooper and Greenip**
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2004
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles - Rollback Vehicles - Use of Warning Lamps**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a rollback vehicle that is being operated to haul a
4 vehicle from using the rollback vehicle's warning lamps; providing an exception;
5 and generally relating to rollback vehicles and the use of the vehicle's warning
6 lamps.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article - Transportation
9 Section 11-151.1 and 22-221
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2002 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article - Transportation
14 Section 22-215.1
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2002 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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

19 **Article - Transportation**

20 11-151.1.

21 "Rollback" means a vehicle that is designed with a ramp on wheels and a
22 hydraulic lift with a capacity to haul or tow an additional vehicle.

23 22-215.1.

24 (A) Whenever a rollback vehicle, as defined in § 11-151.1 of this article, is
25 being operated in combination with a vehicle being towed, the towed vehicle shall be
26 equipped to display, in accordance with the provisions of § 22-201.1 of this subtitle:

1 (1) Tail lamps meeting the requirements of § 22-204 of this subtitle; and

2 (2) Stop lamps and turn signals meeting the requirements of § 22-206 of
3 this subtitle.

4 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,
5 WHENEVER A ROLLBACK VEHICLE, AS DEFINED IN § 11-151.1 OF THIS ARTICLE, IS
6 BEING OPERATED TO HAUL ANOTHER VEHICLE, THE ROLLBACK VEHICLE MAY NOT
7 OPERATE ITS WARNING LAMPS.

8 (2) A ROLLBACK VEHICLE BEING OPERATED TO HAUL ANOTHER
9 VEHICLE MAY USE ITS WARNING LAMPS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 22-221 OF THIS
10 SUBTITLE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF WARNING THE DRIVERS OF OTHER VEHICLES OF
11 THE PRESENCE OF A VEHICULAR TRAFFIC HAZARD REQUIRING THE EXERCISE OF
12 UNUSUAL CARE IN APPROACHING, OVERTAKING, OR PASSING.

13 22-221.

14 (a) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with not more than two side cowl or
15 fender lamps that:

16 (1) Emit an amber or white light without glare; and

17 (2) Are located at or near the front of the vehicle.

18 (b) Any motor vehicle may be equipped on each side of the vehicle with not
19 more than one running-board courtesy lamp that emits a white or amber light
20 without glare.

21 (c) Any motor vehicle may be equipped with one or more backup lamps, either
22 separately or in combination with other lamps, but any such backup lamp may not be
23 lighted when the motor vehicle is in forward motion.

24 (d) Any vehicle may be equipped with lamps used for the purpose of warning
25 the drivers of other vehicles of the presence of a vehicular traffic hazard requiring the
26 exercise of unusual care in approaching, overtaking, or passing, and, when so
27 equipped, may display the warning in addition to any other warning signals required
28 by the Maryland Vehicle Law.

29 (e) The lamps used to display this warning to the front shall be mounted at
30 the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and shall display
31 simultaneously flashing white or amber lights, or any shade of color between white
32 and amber. The lamps used to display this warning to the rear shall be mounted at
33 the same level and as widely spaced laterally as practicable and shall display
34 simultaneously flashing amber or red lights, or any shade of color between amber and
35 red.

36 (f) These warning lights shall be visible from a distance of not less than 1,500
37 feet under normal atmospheric conditions at night.

1 (g) Every motor vehicle that is registered in this State and that was
2 manufactured or assembled after June 30, 1967, and designated as a 1968 or
3 subsequent year model shall be equipped with these warning lamps by means of
4 which the driver may cause both front and both rear turn signals to flash
5 simultaneously as a vehicular traffic hazard warning.

6 (h) Any vehicle 80 inches or more in overall width, if not otherwise required by
7 § 22-208 of this subtitle, may be equipped with not more than three identification
8 lamps showing to the front, which emit an amber light without glare, and not more
9 than three identification lamps showing to the rear, which emit a red light without
10 glare.

11 (i) These lamps shall be mounted as specified in § 22-208(c) of this subtitle.

12 (j) Warning lamps may be used by the operator of any vehicle when the posted
13 speed limit is in excess of 45 miles per hour and the vehicle is traveling at least 20
14 miles per hour under the posted speed limit, provided that the warning lamps shall be
15 used when required by subsection (k) of this section.

16 (k) (1) The operator of any commercial motor vehicle as defined in § 9-201 of
17 the Tax - General Article shall use warning lamps when the posted speed limit is in
18 excess of 45 miles per hour and the vehicle is traveling at least 20 miles per hour
19 under the posted speed limit.

20 (2) This subsection does not apply:

21 (i) Within any business or residential district;

22 (ii) Whenever a vehicle is slowing or stopping in lawful response to
23 a traffic control device or in response to traffic conditions; or

24 (iii) To any vehicle which is not equipped with warning lamps.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2004.