
By: **Delegates Walkup and Smigiel**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Highway Administration - Bridges - Installation of Throwable**
3 **Flotation Devices**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Highway Administration to install a certain
5 flotation device on every bridge or elevated structure in the State that is part of
6 a highway, extends over a body of water, includes a pedestrian walkway of a
7 certain minimum width, and requires a construction permit from the United
8 States Coast Guard; requiring the flotation device to be readily accessible by any
9 person rendering assistance to another; prohibiting a person, without approval
10 of the Administration, from removing or tampering with a flotation device
11 installed under this Act; establishing a penalty for a violation of this Act; and
12 generally relating to installing flotation devices on bridges.

13 BY adding to

14 Article - Transportation

15 Section 8-654

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

20 **Article - Transportation**

21 8-654.

22 (A) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL INSTALL A TYPE IV U.S. COAST GUARD
23 APPROVED THROWABLE FLOTATION DEVICE ON EVERY BRIDGE OR ELEVATED
24 STRUCTURE IN THE STATE THAT:

25 (1) IS PART OF A HIGHWAY;

26 (2) EXTENDS OVER A BODY OF WATER;

27 (3) INCLUDES A PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY THAT IS AT LEAST 2 FEET WIDE;

28 AND

1 (4) REQUIRES A CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FROM THE UNITED STATES
2 COAST GUARD.

3 (B) THE FLOTATION DEVICE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION
4 SHALL BE READILY ACCESSIBLE BY ANY PERSON RENDERING ASSISTANCE TO
5 ANOTHER WHO IS IN DISTRESS IN THE WATER.

6 (C) (1) A PERSON MAY NOT, WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE
7 ADMINISTRATION, REMOVE OR TAMPER WITH A FLOTATION DEVICE INSTALLED ON A
8 BRIDGE OR ELEVATED STRUCTURE UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

9 (2) ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IS
10 GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE OF NOT
11 MORE THAN \$500.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 October 1, 2006.