

HOUSE BILL 433

R6

9lr2161

By: **Delegate Malone**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2009

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore County - Emergency Vehicles - Sirens**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain Baltimore County emergency vehicles to be
4 equipped with a certain siren that emits a certain level of sound; and generally
5 relating to sirens on Baltimore County emergency vehicles.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article - Transportation
8 Section 22-218(a) and 22-401(e)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

13 **Article - Transportation**

14 22-218.

15 (a) (1) Every emergency vehicle, in addition to any other equipment and
16 distinctive markings required by this subtitle, shall be equipped with a siren, exhaust
17 whistle, or bell capable of giving an audible signal.

18 (2) **A BALTIMORE COUNTY EMERGENCY VEHICLE WITH A GROSS**
19 **VEHICLE WEIGHT OF 47,000 POUNDS OR MORE SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH A**
20 **MOTOR-DRIVEN MECHANICAL SIREN THAT EMITS A MINIMUM OF 123 DECIBELS**
21 **OF A SQUARE WAVE WARNING SOUND.**

22 22-401.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (e) **(1) (I)** Every emergency vehicle shall be equipped with a siren,
2 whistle, or bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a
3 distance of not less than 500 feet.

4 **(II) A BALTIMORE COUNTY EMERGENCY VEHICLE WITH A**
5 **GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT OF 47,000 POUNDS OR MORE SHALL BE EQUIPPED**
6 **WITH A MOTOR-DRIVEN MECHANICAL SIREN THAT EMITS A MINIMUM OF 123**
7 **DECIBELS OF A SQUARE WAVE WARNING SOUND.**

8 **(2)** However, the siren may not be used except when the vehicle is
9 operated in response to an emergency call or in the immediate pursuit of an actual or
10 suspected violator of the law, in which latter events the driver of the vehicle shall
11 sound the siren when reasonably necessary to warn pedestrians and other drivers of
12 the approach of the vehicle.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2009.