

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 579

(Senator Bailey)

Judicial Proceedings

Environment and Transportation

Vehicle Equipment - Highway Maintenance and Service - Green Flashing Lights

This bill authorizes highway maintenance and service equipment, or vehicles owned by the State or a local jurisdiction (including those operating under a contract with the State or a local jurisdiction), to be equipped with and display green flashing lights simultaneously with yellow or amber flashing lights during the course of snow removal or the protection of highway maintenance workers. The number of any such lights may not exceed the number of yellow or amber flashing lights equipped and displayed.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: As the bill is authorizing in nature; the bill is not anticipated to have a significant impact on State expenditures. Revenues are not materially affected.

Local Effect: As the bill is authorizing in nature; the bill is not anticipated to have a significant impact on local expenditures. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: A person is prohibited from driving or moving on any highway any vehicle (or equipment) that is equipped with (or displays) any light or signal device designed to emit an oscillating, rotating, blinking, or other type of emission of light, unless designated and authorized by the Motor Vehicle Administration. This requirement does not prohibit the display and use of any lighting device that may be permitted (or required) elsewhere in the Maryland Vehicle Law.

Service vehicles, waste or recycling collection vehicles, rural letter carrier vehicles, slow-moving farm vehicles, and tow trucks are authorized to be equipped with or display yellow or amber lights or signal devices. The yellow or amber lights or signal devices may be flashed or oscillated or otherwise used only in the course of official duties to indicate to the public that the vehicle is slow moving or otherwise is impeding traffic.

One or more amber flashing lights may be displayed by a tow truck while at the scene of an accident or a disabled vehicle or while towing a vehicle and by snow removal and other highway maintenance and service equipment and escort vehicles.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 1150 (Delegate Jacobs, *et al.*) - Environment and Transportation.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Somerset counties; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 21, 2022
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