

HOUSE BILL 1375

R6

5lr2439

By: **Delegate Stein**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Equipment – Portable Variable Messaging Signs – Authorization**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a tow truck to display a portable variable messaging sign
4 mounted on the tow truck while at the scene of an accident or a disabled vehicle; and
5 generally relating to portable variable messaging signs.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
7 Article – Transportation
8 Section 22–218(c)(1)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Transportation
13 Section 22–218(c)(6) and 22–218.2(a)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Transportation**

19 22–218.

20 (c) (1) A person may not drive or move on any highway any vehicle or
21 equipment that is equipped with or displays any light or signal device designed to emit an
22 oscillating, rotating, blinking, or other type of emission of light, unless designated and
23 authorized by the Administrator as indicated in paragraphs (2) through (13) of this
24 subsection. The provisions of this section do not prohibit the display and use of any lighting
25 device that may be permitted or required elsewhere in the Maryland Vehicle Law.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (6) (i) Service vehicles, waste or recycling collection vehicles, rural
2 letter carrier vehicles, slow moving farm vehicles, and tow trucks may be equipped with or
3 display yellow or amber lights or signal devices.

4 (ii) Highway maintenance and service equipment or vehicles owned
5 by the State or a local jurisdiction, or operating under a contract with the State or a local
6 jurisdiction, that are equipped with and displaying yellow or amber flashing lights while in
7 use for snow removal or the protection of highway maintenance workers may
8 simultaneously be equipped with and display green flashing lights in a number up to the
9 number of yellow or amber flashing lights equipped and displayed.

10 (III) 1. A TOW TRUCK MAY DISPLAY A PORTABLE VARIABLE
11 MESSAGING SIGN MOUNTED ON THE TOW TRUCK WHILE AT THE SCENE OF AN
12 ACCIDENT OR A DISABLED VEHICLE.

13 2. THE PORTABLE VARIABLE MESSAGING SIGN SHALL:

14 A. CONFORM TO THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED IN THE
15 MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES ADOPTED BY THE STATE
16 HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION UNDER § 25-104 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND

17 B. DISPLAY ONLY THOSE MESSAGES APPROVED FOR USE
18 BY THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION.

19 22-218.2.

20 (a) (1) One or more amber flashing lights may be displayed:

21 (i) By a tow truck while at the scene of an accident or a disabled
22 vehicle or while towing a vehicle; and

23 (ii) By snow removal and other highway maintenance and service
24 equipment and escort vehicles.

25 (2) Highway maintenance and service equipment or vehicles owned by the
26 State or a local jurisdiction, or operating under a contract with the State or a local
27 jurisdiction, may display green flashing lights only in accordance with § 22-218(c)(6) of this
28 subtitle.

29 (3) A TOW TRUCK MAY DISPLAY A PORTABLE VARIABLE MESSAGING
30 SIGN ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 22-218(c)(6) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
32 October 1, 2025.