

Chapter 459

(House Bill 1375)

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Equipment – Portable Variable Messaging Signs – Authorization

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

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 22–218(c)(1)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 22–218(c)(6) and 22–218.2(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

22–218.

(c) (1) A person may not drive or move 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 Administrator as indicated in paragraphs (2) through (13) of this subsection. The provisions of this section do not prohibit the display and use of any lighting device that may be permitted or required elsewhere in the Maryland Vehicle Law.

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

(ii) Highway maintenance and service equipment or vehicles owned by the State or a local jurisdiction, or operating under a contract with the State or a local jurisdiction, that are equipped with and displaying yellow or amber flashing lights while in use for snow removal or the protection of highway maintenance workers may

simultaneously be equipped with and display green flashing lights in a number up to the number of yellow or amber flashing lights equipped and displayed.

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

2. THE PORTABLE VARIABLE MESSAGING SIGN SHALL:

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

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

22-218.2.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2025.