

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1520 (Delegate Stein)
Environment and Transportation

Baltimore County and Baltimore City - Vehicle Laws - Lighting on Privately Owned Vehicles

This bill authorizes up to five of the highest-ranking officers of each nonprofit volunteer emergency medical organization located in Baltimore County or Baltimore City and operating under a commercial ambulance service license to equip their privately owned vehicles with red or red and white lights or signal devices. The lights or signal devices may only be displayed while traveling to or at the scene of an emergency.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The bill is authorizing in nature and does not directly affect the finances or operations of Baltimore City or Baltimore County.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In general, 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, except as authorized under the Maryland Vehicle Law. A violation is a misdemeanor subject to a maximum fine of \$500. The prepayment penalty assessed by the District Court is \$60.

There are various exceptions under State law that authorize specified vehicles to be equipped with or display lights or signal devices. For example, ambulances may be

equipped with or display red, white, or red and white lights or signal devices. Additionally, vehicles of city, county, State, or federal fire departments or duly constituted volunteer fire departments or rescue squads, or the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System, may be equipped with or display red and/or white lights or signal devices. In each volunteer fire company, up to five specified officers may have their privately owned vehicles equipped with red or red and white lights or signal devices, which may be displayed only while traveling to or at the scene of an emergency.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 1030 (Senators Attar and Hettleman) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; Baltimore County; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 24, 2025
js/aad

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