



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BILL:** House Bill 486 - Corporal William Kyle Ferrell  
Emergency Vehicle Safety Act

**SPONSOR:** Delegate Cox

**HEARING DATE:** February 20, 2020

**COMMITTEE:** Environment and Transportation

**CONTACT:** Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

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**POSITION:** **OPPOSE**

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The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **OPPOSES House Bill 486 - Corporal William Kyle Ferrell Emergency Vehicle Safety Act**, which allows specified emergency personnel to equip their personal vehicle with red or white lights or signal devices for use at the scene of an accident or other emergency.

The Prince George's County Fire and Emergency Medical Services (Fire/EMS) Department responds to over 152,000 calls for service annually. The Fire/EMS Department's response area exceeds 500 square miles within County borders, as well as provides mutual aide to surrounding jurisdictions.

The Fire/EMS Department maintains a strict policy that prohibits home response and the use of emergency lights on personally owned vehicles. As well, all Fire/EMS response vehicles must be marked with graphics that clearly identify the vehicle as an official emergency response vehicle for Prince George's County.

For the safety of our first responders, as well as for the residents and visitors of Prince George's County, no member or employee of the Fire/DMS Department may respond to an emergency incident in a personally owned vehicle.

The Fire/EMS Department maintains strict accountability of all personnel on all emergency incidents. This legislation would allow vehicles to operate outside of written policy, and outside of the Department's strict accountability procedures.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **OPPOSES House Bill 486** and asks for a **UNFAVORABLE** report.