

HB 1150_MTBMA_FAV.pdf

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March 3, 2022

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 1150 – FAVORABLE – Vehicle Equipment – Highway Maintenance and Service – Green Flashing Lights

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

HB 1150 would authorize highway maintenance and service equipment vehicles to be equipped with and display green flashing lights while in use for snow removal or the protection of highway maintenance workers.

MTBMA strongly supports this legislation as it will increase worker safety as well as motorist and pedestrian safety on the roads in Maryland. Bright green flashing lights have proven to be very successful in other states in alerting drivers and pedestrians of maintenance being performed. They offer a higher degree of contrast and are better seen by the human eye than yellow or amber colored lights. Our employees put their lives at risk every day and we as a State need to do everything within our power to protect them as they work on our roadways.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue, and we urge a favorable report on House Bill 1150.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association

HB1150 - SHA - Highway Maintenance and Service - G

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Larry Hogan
Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor
James F. Ports, Jr.
Secretary

March 3, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chairman, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Letter of Support – House Bill 1150 – Vehicle Equipment – Highway Maintenance and Service
– Green Flashing Lights**

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 1150 as it establishes an additional tool to increase safety for Maryland’s critical highway maintenance workers.

House Bill 1150 authorizes green flashing lights to be used simultaneously with yellow or amber flashing lights on certain highway maintenance equipment and vehicles.

The MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) uses every tactic possible to educate motorists to “Move Over” when approaching a work zone to protect our transportation workers. Currently, the MDOT’s snow-fighting and maintenance vehicles are equipped with yellow or amber lights. Twelve states have paired other colored lights with the existing amber colored lights on highway maintenance vehicles and have reported positive feedback and increased effectiveness. The MDOT SHA is supportive of incorporating green flashing lights into the lighting scheme on snow-fighting and highway maintenance vehicles and equipment, which has been done in Missouri, Ohio, Michigan, and New York, to increase both the distance perception of stopped or slow-moving vehicles and compliance with specific work zone warning signage. A green and amber combination is well perceived at a distance and is not as harsh on driver’s eyes, especially at night, in comparison to other color combinations. In addition, a green and amber combination reserved specifically for transportation service and maintenance purposes would aid in designating vehicles and processes specific to highway maintenance activity. This combination would give these vehicles and actions a separate and distinct designation.

While House Bill 1150 does not require the use of green lights by contractors or State and local governments, the MDOT SHA would encourage the use of the multi-light scheme for snow-fighting and highway maintenance vehicles and equipment.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1150.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Stafford
State Legislative Manager
Maryland State Highway Administration
410-310-1056

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090

HB 1150_MAA_FAV.pdf

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Position: FAV

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March 3, 2022

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 1150 – FAVORABLE – Vehicle Equipment – Highway Maintenance and Service – Green Flashing Lights

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) is comprised of 18 producer members representing more than 47 production facilities, 24 contractor members, 24 consulting engineer firms and 41 other associate members. We proactively work with regulatory agencies to represent the interests of the asphalt industry both in the writing and interpretation of state and federal regulations that may affect our members. We also advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland's multimodal transportation system.

HB 1150 would authorize highway maintenance and service equipment vehicles to be equipped with and display green flashing lights while in use for snow removal or the protection of highway maintenance workers.

MAA strongly supports this legislation as it will increase worker safety as well as motorist and pedestrian safety on the roads in Maryland. Bright green flashing lights have proven to be very successful in other states in alerting drivers and pedestrians of maintenance being performed. They offer a higher degree of contrast and are better seen by the human eye than yellow or amber colored lights. Our employees put their lives at risk every day and we as a State need to do everything within our power to protect them as they work on our roadways.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue, and we urge a favorable report on House Bill 1150.

Thank you,

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association