JACK BAILEY Legislative District 29 Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee



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<u>Senate Bill 579 – Vehicle Equipment – Highway Maintenance and Service –</u> Green Flashing Lights

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 579 – Vehicle Equipment – Highway Maintenance and Service – Green Flashing Lights. This bill would authorize highway maintenance and service vehicles owned or used by the State or a local government to be equipped with and display green flashing lights simultaneously with yellow or amber flashing lights while in use for snow removal or the protection of highway maintenance workers.

Current Maryland law only permits service vehicles to use yellow or amber lights. Green flashing lights are currently in use by highway maintenance and service vehicles in other states, and the State Highway Administration has found that their use in combination with amber or yellow lights in these states have improved the safety of highway workers and drivers. This is, in part, because a combination of green and yellow lights are less harsh on the eyes of drivers at night than yellow or amber lights alone.

It is important to note that this legislation only authorizes these vehicles to be equipped with green flashing lights. This bill is not intended to require any changes to vehicles currently owned or used by State and local governments, but is instead focused on allowing new equipment to have and use green lights in combination with yellow or amber lights.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 579. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Senator Jack Bailey

District 29

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