
February 24, 2022

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support – SB 579 – Vehicle Equipment – Highway Maintenance and Service – Green Flashing Lights

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports Senate Bill 579 as it establishes an additional tool to increase safety for Maryland’s critical highway maintenance workers.

Senate Bill 579 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 Senate Bill 579 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 Senate Bill 579.

Respectfully submitted,

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Beacons (switch between single flash green and quad flash amber)

