

**SenatorBailey\_FAV\_SB579.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jack Bailey

Position: FAV

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

Judicial Proceedings Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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February 24, 2022

**Senate Bill 579 – Vehicle Equipment – Highway Maintenance and Service –  
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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey  
District 29  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

# **SB0579 - SHA - Highway Maintenance and Service - G**

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: FAV

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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.

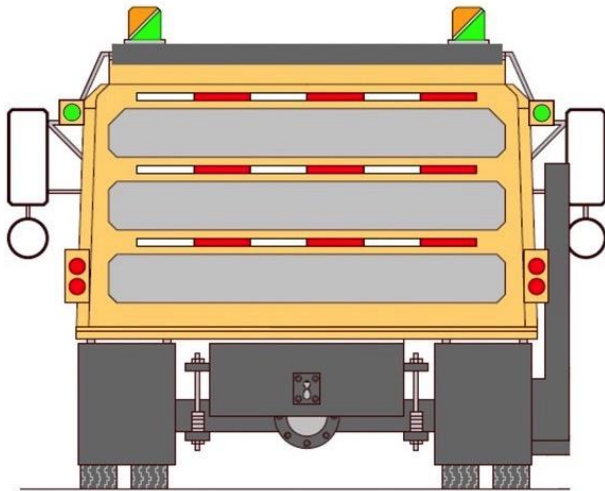
Respectfully submitted,

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



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



**SB 579\_MAA\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rachel Clark

Position: FAV

CHAIRMAN:  
Rob Scrivener  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
Brian Russell

**MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION**



SECRETARY:  
David Slaughter  
TREASURER:  
Jeff Graf  
PRESIDENT:  
G. Marshall Klinefelter

February 24, 2022

Senator William C. Smith, Chair  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB 579 – FAVORABLE – Vehicle Equipment – Highway Maintenance and Service – Green Flashing Lights**

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings 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.

SB 579 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 Senate Bill 579.

Thank you,

Marshall Klinefelter  
President  
Maryland Asphalt Association

**SB 579\_MTBMA\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rachel Clark

Position: FAV





February 24, 2022

Senator William C. Smith, Chair  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB 579 – FAVORABLE – Vehicle Equipment – Highway Maintenance and Service – Green Flashing Lights**

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings 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.

SB 579 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 lists 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 Senate Bill 579.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata  
President and CEO  
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association