

March 27, 2025

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

RE: Letter of Support – HB 1375 – Vehicle Equipment – Portable Variable Messaging Signs - Authorization

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 1375 as a tool to enhance the safety of motorists, first responders, and tow truck drivers on our roadways.

HB 1375 authorizes tow trucks to display a portable changeable messaging sign (PCMS) while assisting with a crash or disabled vehicle on a highway. The signs would be securely mounted on tow trucks and conform to standards established by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The signs would only display messages pre-approved by the State Highway Administration (SHA).

The safety of everyone who uses Maryland's highway system is the highest priority for the SHA. Whether people are walking, biking, driving, or on the side of the road, the SHA is dedicated to saving lives and preventing injuries by reducing motor vehicle crashes. HB 1375 supports SHA's Vision Zero efforts and will play an important part in keeping Maryland's roadway responders and those they assist safe. All messaging displayed on Maryland State Highways must be in compliance with MUTCD standards.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information during its deliberation and issue House Bill 1375 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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