

HOUSE BILL 486

R6

0lr0467

By: **Delegate Cox**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2020

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Corporal William Kyle Ferrell Emergency Vehicle Safety Act**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing certain emergency personnel to equip certain privately
4 owned motor vehicles with certain emergency lights for use only while at the scene
5 of an accident or other emergency; making certain conforming changes; and
6 generally relating to the use of emergency lights on privately owned motor vehicles.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Transportation
9 Section 22–218(c)(1) and (3) and (e)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

12 BY adding to
13 Article – Transportation
14 Section 22–218(c)(14)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Transportation**

20 22–218.

21 (c) (1) A person may not drive or move on any highway any vehicle or
22 equipment that is equipped with or displays any light or signal device designed to emit an
23 oscillating, rotating, blinking, or other type of emission of light, unless designated and
24 authorized by the Administrator as indicated in paragraphs (2) through [(13)] (14) of this

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



subsection. The provisions of this section do not prohibit the display and use of any lighting device that may be permitted or required elsewhere in the Maryland Vehicle Law.

(3) [(i)] Vehicles of city, county, State, or federal fire departments or duly constituted volunteer fire departments or rescue squads, or the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System, may be equipped with or display red and/or white lights or signal devices.

[(ii)] In each volunteer fire company, no more than five of the following officers may have their privately owned vehicles equipped with red lights or signal devices which may be displayed only while on route to or at the scene of an emergency:

1. The fire chief or the highest ranking fireline officer;

2. One or more of the assistant chiefs or deputy chiefs, whichever rank is second in command; and

3. The emergency medical services commander.

(iii) 1. The fire police of each volunteer fire company may have their privately owned vehicles equipped with red lights or signal devices designed to emit an oscillating, rotating, blinking, or other type of emission of light.

2. The lights or signal devices may be flashed or oscillated or otherwise used only while the vehicle is at the scene of an accident, flood, or other emergency to which the volunteer fire company is responding.]

(14) (i) A VEHICLE PRIVATELY OWNED BY THE FOLLOWING EMERGENCY PERSONNEL MAY BE EQUIPPED WITH RED OR WHITE LIGHTS OR SIGNAL DEVICES, WHICH MAY BE USED ONLY WHILE AT THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT OR OTHER EMERGENCY:

1. A FIREFIGHTER;

2. AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN;

3. A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER; OR

4. A MEMBER OF:

A. A RESCUE SQUAD;

B. A FIRE POLICE SQUAD; OR

C. THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES WHO IS

1 **TRAINED IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE.**

2 **(II) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS**
3 **PARAGRAPH, IN EACH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, NO MORE THAN FIVE OF THE**
4 **FOLLOWING OFFICERS MAY ALSO DISPLAY RED LIGHTS OR SIGNAL DEVICES ON**
5 **THEIR PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES WHILE ON ROUTE TO THE SCENE OF AN**
6 **EMERGENCY:**

7 **1. THE FIRE CHIEF OR THE HIGHEST RANKING FIRELINE**
8 **OFFICER;**

9 **2. ONE OR MORE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEFS OR DEPUTY**
10 **CHIEFS, WHICHEVER RANK IS SECOND IN COMMAND; AND**

11 **3. THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMANDER.**

12 (e) Except as provided in subsection [(c)(3)] **(C)(14)** of this section, the flashing
13 lighting described in subsections (b) and (c) of this section may not be used on any vehicle
14 other than an emergency vehicle, service vehicle, or school vehicle.

15 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**
16 **October 1, 2020.**