

HOUSE BILL 1375

R6

5lr2439

By: ~~Delegate Stein~~ **Delegates Stein, Addison, Foley, Healey, and Terrasa**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Equipment – Portable Variable Messaging Signs – Authorization**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a tow truck to display a portable variable messaging sign
4 mounted on the tow truck while at the scene of ~~an accident~~ a crash or a disabled
5 vehicle; and generally relating to portable variable messaging signs.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
7 Article – Transportation
8 Section 22–218(c)(1)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Transportation
13 Section 22–218(c)(6) and 22–218.2(a)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Transportation**

19 22–218.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (c) (1) A person may not drive or move on any highway any vehicle or
 2 equipment that is equipped with or displays any light or signal device designed to emit an
 3 oscillating, rotating, blinking, or other type of emission of light, unless designated and
 4 authorized by the Administrator as indicated in paragraphs (2) through (13) of this
 5 subsection. The provisions of this section do not prohibit the display and use of any lighting
 6 device that may be permitted or required elsewhere in the Maryland Vehicle Law.

7 (6) (i) Service vehicles, waste or recycling collection vehicles, rural
 8 letter carrier vehicles, slow moving farm vehicles, and tow trucks may be equipped with or
 9 display yellow or amber lights or signal devices.

10 (ii) Highway maintenance and service equipment or vehicles owned
 11 by the State or a local jurisdiction, or operating under a contract with the State or a local
 12 jurisdiction, that are equipped with and displaying yellow or amber flashing lights while in
 13 use for snow removal or the protection of highway maintenance workers may
 14 simultaneously be equipped with and display green flashing lights in a number up to the
 15 number of yellow or amber flashing lights equipped and displayed.

16 (III) 1. A TOW TRUCK MAY DISPLAY A PORTABLE VARIABLE
 17 MESSAGING SIGN MOUNTED ON THE TOW TRUCK WHILE AT THE SCENE OF ~~AN~~
 18 ~~ACCIDENT~~ A CRASH OR A DISABLED VEHICLE.

19 2. THE PORTABLE VARIABLE MESSAGING SIGN SHALL:

20 A. CONFORM TO THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED IN THE
 21 MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES ADOPTED BY THE STATE
 22 HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION UNDER § 25-104 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND

23 B. DISPLAY ONLY THOSE MESSAGES APPROVED FOR USE
 24 BY THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION.

25 22-218.2.

26 (a) (1) One or more amber flashing lights may be displayed:

27 (i) By a tow truck while at the scene of an accident or a disabled
 28 vehicle or while towing a vehicle; and

29 (ii) By snow removal and other highway maintenance and service
 30 equipment and escort vehicles.

31 (2) Highway maintenance and service equipment or vehicles owned by the
 32 State or a local jurisdiction, or operating under a contract with the State or a local
 33 jurisdiction, may display green flashing lights only in accordance with § 22-218(c)(6) of this
 34 subtitle.

1 **(3) A TOW TRUCK MAY DISPLAY A PORTABLE VARIABLE MESSAGING**
2 **SIGN ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 22-218(C)(6) OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.