

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Enrolled - Revised**

Senate Bill 1030

(Senators Attar and Hettleman)

Judicial Proceedings

Environment and Transportation

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**Baltimore County and Baltimore City - Vehicle Laws - Lighting on Privately Owned Vehicles**

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This bill authorizes up to five of the highest-ranking officers of Hatzalah of Baltimore, a nonprofit volunteer emergency medical organization operating in Baltimore City and Baltimore County under a commercial ambulance service license, to equip their privately owned vehicles with red or red and white lights or signal devices. The lights or signal devices may only be displayed while traveling to or at the scene of an emergency.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations.

**Local Effect:** The bill is authorizing in nature and does not directly affect the finances or operations of Baltimore City or Baltimore County.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** In general, a person may not drive or move on any highway any vehicle or equipment that is equipped with or displays any light or signal device designed to emit an oscillating, rotating, blinking, or other type of emission of light, except as authorized under the Maryland Vehicle Law. A violation is a misdemeanor subject to a maximum fine of \$500. The prepayment penalty assessed by the District Court is \$60.

There are various exceptions under State law that authorize specified vehicles to be equipped with or display lights or signal devices. For example, ambulances may be

equipped with or display red, white, or red and white lights or signal devices. Additionally, 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. In each volunteer fire company, up to five specified officers may have their privately owned vehicles equipped with red or red and white lights or signal devices, which may be displayed only while traveling to or at the scene of an emergency.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 1520 (Delegate Stein) - Environment and Transportation.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City; Baltimore County; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 10, 2025  
km/aad Third Reader - March 24, 2025  
Enrolled - April 22, 2025  
Revised - Amendment(s) - April 22, 2025

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