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Judiciary Committee

Subcommittees

Family Law

Public Safety



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 20, 2020

HB 486 Corporal William Kyle Ferrell Emergency Vehicle Safety Act

Dear Chair Barve and Vice-Chair Stein and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to testify on a bill that if passed will bolster the safety of those we depend on to keep us safe. People who in fact put their own lives at risk every day across the state of Maryland, members of our emergency services. The bill is named in honor of just one of those individuals, Corporal William Kyle Ferrell, who from an early age chose to serve our country and his local community.

This bill would allow for emergency personnel: a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, law enforcement officer, rescue squad, fire police squad and the U.S. Armed Forces who is trained in emergency response to be equipped with red or white lights or signal devices for use only while at the scene of an accident or other emergency.

While we don't want these lights to be used by the general public, trained responders should be able to have the equipment to use on their private vehicles. After consulting with members of the Maryland State Firemen's Association, I have prepared two clarifying amendments to this bill: 1. That a member must be in good standing of a volunteer fire, fire rescue, police, or armed services; and 2. that member must have completed training as required by a local, or County, armed forces, or governmental authority.

We all know these fine emergency responders and we all know that whether they are answering an "official" call or driving down the road when they see someone in distress they are going to help. It is who they are.

It is who Corporal William Kyle Ferrell was when he came upon a stranded motorist on a busy highway. When getting out of his vehicle, he was struck and killed. I believe that better lighting equipment would have helped. We aren't going to be able to change these peoples' hearts for service; we don't want to, but we can allow them to use equipment to better protect themselves.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. I would appreciate a favorable report from the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Cox", is centered on the page.

Dan Cox