

CHAPTER 450  
(Senate Bill 708)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 12-218 (c) of Article 66½ of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume and 1971 Supplement), title "Vehicle Laws," subtitle "12. Equipment of Vehicles," subheading "Part II. Lamps and Other Lighting Equipment," to prohibit the emission of a solid beam light on any vehicle or equipment unless designated and authorized by the Motor Vehicle Administrator or as provided elsewhere in this article.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That subsection (c) of Section 12-218 of Article 66½ of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume AND 1971 SUPPLEMENT), title "Vehicle Laws," subtitle "Equipment of Vehicles," subheading "Part II. Lamps and Other Lighting Equipment," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

12-218.

(c) No person shall drive or move any vehicle or equipment upon any highway which is equipped with or displays any light or signal device which is ~~capable of~~ DESIGNED TO EMIT AN oscillating, rotating, blinking or [any] other type of emission of light [other than a solid beam] unless designated and authorized by the [Commissioner] Motor Vehicle Administrator as [follows.] indicated in subparagraphs (1) through (6) below. The provisions of this section shall not be deemed to prohibit the display and use of any lighting device which may be permitted or required elsewhere in this article.

(1) VEHICLES OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER CITY, COUNTY, STATE OR FEDERAL LAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES MAY BE EQUIPPED WITH AND DISPLAY RED AND BLUE LIGHTS OR SIGNAL DEVICES.

(2) VEHICLES OF CITY, COUNTY, STATE OR FEDERAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS OR DULY CONSTITUTED VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS OR RESCUE SQUADS MAY BE EQUIPPED WITH OR DISPLAY RED AND/OR WHITE LIGHTS OR SIGNAL DEVICES.

(3) AMBULANCES MAY BE EQUIPPED WITH OR DISPLAY RED AND/OR WHITE LIGHTS OR SIGNAL DEVICES.

(4) AUTHORIZED SERVICE VEHICLES, RURAL LETTER CARRIER, SLOW MOVING FARM VEHICLES AND TOW TRUCKS MAY BE EQUIPPED WITH OR DISPLAY YELLOW OR AMBER LIGHTS OR SIGNAL DEVICES.

(5) SAID BLUE, RED, OR WHITE LIGHTS OR SIGNAL DEVICES MAY ONLY BE FLASHED OR OSCILLATED OR OTHERWISE USED WHILE ENROUTE TO, AT THE SCENE OF, OR RETURNING FROM AN EMERGENCY AND SHALL NOT RELIEVE THE AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLE FROM OTHERWISE GIVING AN AUDIBLE WARNING AS REQUIRED ELSEWHERE IN THIS ARTICLE.