

005599612

HOUSE BILL NO. 501

Offered January 18, 2000

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 46.2-1023 and 46.2-1025 of the Code of Virginia, relating to flashing warning lights on certain vehicles.

Patrons—Armstrong and Day; Senator: Reynolds

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That §§ 46.2-1023 and 46.2-1025 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 46.2-1023. Flashing red or red and white warning lights.

Fire apparatus, forest warden vehicles, ambulances, rescue and life-saving vehicles, vehicles of the Department of Emergency Services, vehicles of the Office of Emergency Medical Services, animal warden vehicles, *vehicles used by municipal safety officers in the performance of their official duties*, and vehicles used by security personnel of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, Bassett-Walker, Inc., Tultex Corporation, and, within those areas specified in their orders of appointment, by special conservators of the peace and policemen for certain places appointed pursuant to §§ 19.2-13 and 19.2-17 may be equipped with flashing, blinking, or alternating red or red and white combination warning lights of types approved by the Superintendent.

§ 46.2-1025. Flashing amber or purple warning lights.

A. The following vehicles may be equipped with flashing, blinking, or alternating amber warning lights of types approved by the Superintendent:

1. Vehicles used for the principal purpose of towing or servicing disabled vehicles;
2. Vehicles used in constructing, maintaining, and repairing highways or utilities on or along public highways;

3. Vehicles used for the principal purpose of removing hazardous or polluting substances from state waters and drainage areas on or along public highways;

4. Vehicles used for servicing automatic teller machines, provided the amber lights are not lit while the vehicle is in motion;

5. Vehicles used in refuse collection, provided the amber lights are lit only when the vehicles are engaged in refuse collection operations;

6. Vehicles used by individuals for emergency snow-removal purposes;

7. Hi-rail vehicles;

8. Fire apparatus, ambulances, and rescue and life-saving vehicles, provided the amber lights are mounted or installed on the rear of the vehicles and are used in addition to lights permitted under § 46.2-1023;

9. Vehicles owned and used by businesses providing security services, provided the amber lights are not lit while the vehicle is being operated on a public highway;

10. Vehicles used to collect and deliver the United States mail, provided the amber lights are lit only when the vehicle is actually engaged in such collection or delivery;

11. Vehicles used to transport petroleum products, provided the amber light is mounted on the rear of the vehicle and is lit only when the vehicle's back-up lights are lit and its device producing an audible signal when the vehicle is operated in reverse gear, as provided for in § 46.2-1175.1, is in operation;

12. Vehicles used by law-enforcement agency personnel in the enforcement of laws governing motor vehicle parking;

13. Government-owned law-enforcement vehicles, provided the lights are used for the purpose of giving directional warning to vehicular traffic to move one direction or another and are not lit while the vehicle is being operated on a public highway;

14. Chase vehicles when used to unload a hot air balloon or used to load a hot air balloon after landing, provided the amber lights are not lit while the vehicle is in motion;

15. Vehicles used for farm, agricultural, or horticultural purposes, or any farm tractor;

16. Vehicles owned and used by construction companies operating under Virginia contractors licenses;

17. Vehicles used to lead or provide escorts for bicycle races authorized by the Department of Transportation or the locality in which the race is being conducted; ~~and~~

18. Vehicles used by radio or television stations for remote broadcasts, provided that the amber lights are not lit while the vehicle is in motion; *and*

INTRODUCED

HB501

60 *19. Vehicles used by municipal safety officers in the performance of their official duties.*

61 B. Except as otherwise provided in this section, such amber lights shall be lit only when performing
62 the functions which qualify them to be equipped with such lights.

63 C. Vehicles used to lead or provide escorts for funeral processions may use either amber warning
64 lights or purple warning lights, but amber warning lights and purple warning lights shall not
65 simultaneously be used on the same vehicle. The Superintendent of State Police shall develop standards
66 and specifications for purple lights authorized in this subsection.