



## **Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget**

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### **19 VAC 30-165– Regulations Relating to Standards and Specifications for Purple Warning Lights Used By Vehicles Leading or Escorting Funeral Processions Department of State Police August 7, 2000**

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The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 9-6.14:7.1.G of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 25 (98). Section 9-6.14:7.1.G requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. The analysis presented below represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.

### **Summary of the Proposed Regulation**

The 1999 Session of the Virginia General Assembly enacted an amendment to § 46.2-1025 of the Code of Virginia that authorizes flashing purple warning lights on vehicles used to lead or provide escorts for funeral processions. The amendment also directs the Superintendent of State Police to develop standards and specifications for purple lights. These proposed regulations establish those standards and specifications.

### **Estimated Economic Impact**

Before the amendment to the Code of Virginia, only amber lights were permitted for use to lead or provide escorts for funeral processions. Now either amber or purple lights are permitted for use to lead or provide escorts for funeral processions. These proposed regulations delineate specifications, that are based on the Society of Automotive Engineers' national standards, that the purple lights must meet.

Since funeral directors may continue to use amber lights, and there has been no change to the specifications of the amber lights, there is no new burden or cost created by the amendment to the Code of Virginia or these proposed regulations for funeral homes or their clients. Additionally, since the Department of State Police believes that the purple lights will not cause any safety problems, there appear to be no new costs to the public by the new approved use of purple lights. The amendment to the Code of Virginia and these proposed regulations allowing funeral directors an additional option for color of flashing lights will create a small benefit for those funeral directors and clients who prefer to use the color purple, while not imposing any new costs. Thus, the amendment and proposed regulations will likely produce a small net benefit for the Commonwealth.

## **Businesses and Entities Affected**

The proposed regulations potentially affect the 512 funeral homes and approximately 2,500 funeral directors in the Commonwealth.<sup>1</sup>

## **Localities Particularly Affected**

The proposed regulations apply to localities throughout the Commonwealth.

## **Projected Impact on Employment**

The introduction of the proposed regulations is unlikely to have a significant effect on employment.

## **Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property**

The amendment to the Code of Virginia and these proposed regulations will allow funeral homes to purchase and use purple warning lights. Vendors of purple warning lights may encounter a small increase in sales.

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<sup>1</sup> Source for numbers: Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers