

The 1999 Session of the Virginia General Assembly enacted an amendment to Section 46.2-1025 that authorizes flashing purple warning lights on vehicles used to lead or provide escorts for funeral processions. This amendment, which becomes effective on January 1, 2000, also directs the Superintendent of State Police to develop standards and specifications for the purple lights.

In accordance with Executive Order 24 (98), issued by Governor James H. Gilmore, III, and the Virginia Register, *Form Style and Procedure Manual*, this submission was approved as an emergency regulation and has been forwarded to the Registrar of Regulations for publication. This Regulatory Review Package is being submitted to ensure the emergency regulation is replaced within an appropriate period of time.

At the present time, the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Lighting Committee is in the process of formally defining the color 'purple' in their established specifications. Captain W. Steven Flaherty, State Police Safety Officer, has consulted experts within that committee and determined the criteria they establish will be based on specifications currently required for the color 'red'. The referenced SAE Standard sections are SAE J578, SAE J1318, SAE J845, and SAE J595. Based on that information, light emission standards have been established in the regulation, which define boundaries of the emission of purple light which will clearly distinguish the purple color from other colors. These boundaries are consistent with the SAE Standards the committee has tentatively approved.

A letter from the Office of the Attorney General ensuring that the agency has statutory authority to promulgate the regulations is on file and has been submitted to the Department of Planning and Budget.