

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. Statutory authority for establishing procedures for the approval of equipment is defined in Section 46.2-1005 of the Code of Virginia.

In accordance with Executive Order 24 (98), issued by Governor James H. Gilmore, III, and the Virginia Register, *Form Style and Procedure Manual*, the Department of State Police is proposing the establishment of an emergency regulation which is necessary because Virginia statutory law requires that a regulation shall be effective in 280 days or less from enactment of the law. There is an urgent need to adopt these regulations, which establishes standards and specifications for these lights, to allow the proper parties to obtain lights that comply with the regulation prior to the effective date of the enactment.

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 statement from the Attorney General is on file confirming that the agency has the statutory authority to promulgate the proposed emergency regulation and the proposed emergency regulation implements the provisions of 46.2-1025 of the Code of Virginia.