

# HB 1147 Battery Backup

---

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

SPONSORED BY DELEGATE PARROTT



# Background:

- In 2006, 2 teenagers, Scott Caplan and Teresa “Tara” Howard were killed in a crash at the intersection of MD 175 and I-195 SB Ramp in Howard County. The traffic signal had been dark for at least 45 minutes.
- This fatal crash could have been prevented.
- As a result of the crash, Howard County mandated that all traffic signals in the county be equipped with batteries to operate the signal in the case when the electricity goes off.

# Quick Facts:

- LED lights have been implemented at 95% of state intersections
- Battery backup implementation is based on risk based assessment
- Ongoing maintenance costs related to battery backups are a major concern, which is why they have not been installed everywhere
- Currently, around 30% of intersections have a battery backup
- Right now, Howard and Anne Arundel Counties all have some sort of battery backup program

Source: Correspondence with MDOT, February 5, 2021

# What this bill does:

- LED lights have been implemented at 95% of state intersections
- Battery backup implementation is based on risk based assessment
- Ongoing maintenance costs related to battery backups are a major concern, which is why they have not been installed everywhere
- Currently, around 30% of intersections have a battery backup
- Right now, Howard, Anne Arundel, and Washington Counties all have some sort of battery backup program

# Places that currently use battery backup systems at signalized intersections:

- Parts of California
- Howard and Anne Arundel Counties, Maryland
- Scottsdale, Arizona
- Suffolk, Virginia
- Overland Park, Kansas
- British Columbia, Canada

## **Benefits of LED Lights and Battery Backups:**

- LED lights are a greener, and energy efficient choice
- Battery backups are a safety – power goes out, lights stay on, allowing law enforcement efforts to focus elsewhere besides traffic re-direction

Please vote favorably for HB 1147.

---

Questions?