

CHAPTER 258

(House Bill 230)

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Laws – School Crossing Guards – Authority to Direct Traffic

FOR the purpose of authorizing a school crossing guard who meets certain qualifications to stop or otherwise direct vehicles and pedestrians on a highway or on school grounds under certain circumstances; requiring drivers to obey the directions of a school crossing guard exercising authority under this Act; providing for the construction of this Act; and generally relating to the authority of school crossing guards.

BY adding to

Article – Transportation
Section 21–107
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Transportation
Section 27–101(b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Transportation

21–107.

(A) A SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD WHO MEETS THE QUALIFICATIONS IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION MAY STOP OR OTHERWISE DIRECT VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS ON A HIGHWAY OR ON SCHOOL GROUNDS TO ASSIST:

(1) PEDESTRIANS IN THE SAFE CROSSING OF HIGHWAYS AT A SCHOOL CROSSING; AND

(2) SCHOOL VEHICLES IN ENTERING AND LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS.

(B) A SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD IS QUALIFIED TO DIRECT TRAFFIC AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION IF THE SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD:

(1) IS 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER;

(2) IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR A COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD;

(3) HAS COMPLETED TRAINING TO PERFORM ANY TRAFFIC DIRECTION DUTIES TO WHICH THE GUARD IS ASSIGNED AS PRESCRIBED BY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD THAT HAS CONTROL OVER THE SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD; AND

(4) IS WEARING AN APPROPRIATE UNIFORM AS SPECIFIED BY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD THAT HAS CONTROL OVER THE SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD.

(C) A PERSON MAY NOT WILLFULLY DISOBEY A LAWFUL DIRECTION OF A SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY GRANTED IN THIS SECTION.

(D) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION PROHIBITS A SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD WHO DOES NOT MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION FROM ASSISTING A PEDESTRIAN TO CROSS A HIGHWAY, PROVIDING THE SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD DOES NOT ATTEMPT TO DO SO BY DIRECTING TRAFFIC.

27-101.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person convicted of a misdemeanor for the violation of any of the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law is subject to a fine of not more than \$500.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2008.