

# HOUSE BILL 1415

R6

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By: **Delegate Myers**

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2013

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Former School Vehicles – Rules of the Road and Equipment**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing that certain former school vehicles be equipped with  
4 and use certain safety lighting and equipment; applying certain rules of the  
5 road related to the use of certain safety lighting for school vehicles to certain  
6 former school vehicles; requiring that certain safety lighting for certain former  
7 school vehicles be deactivated under certain circumstances; requiring that the  
8 words “school bus” at the front and rear of former school vehicles be covered or  
9 concealed; creating an exception to the prohibition against painting certain  
10 vehicles a certain color; and generally relating to the rules of the road and  
11 equipment for former school vehicles.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Transportation  
14 Section 21–706, 22–218(e), 22–228, and 22–418  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2012 Replacement Volume)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
18 Article – Transportation  
19 Section 22–218(b)(2)  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2012 Replacement Volume)

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

24 **Article – Transportation**

25 21–706.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) If a school vehicle **OR A FORMER SCHOOL VEHICLE** has stopped on a  
2 roadway and is operating the alternately flashing red lights specified in § 22–228 of  
3 this article, the driver of any other vehicle meeting or overtaking the school vehicle **OR**  
4 **FORMER SCHOOL VEHICLE** shall stop at least 20 feet from the rear of the school  
5 vehicle **OR FORMER SCHOOL VEHICLE**, if approaching the school vehicle **OR**  
6 **FORMER SCHOOL VEHICLE** from its rear, or at least 20 feet from the front of the  
7 school vehicle **OR FORMER SCHOOL VEHICLE**, if approaching the school vehicle **OR**  
8 **FORMER SCHOOL VEHICLE** from its front.

9 (b) If a school vehicle **OR FORMER SCHOOL VEHICLE** has stopped on a  
10 roadway and is operating the alternately flashing red lights specified in § 22–228 of  
11 this article, the driver of any other vehicle meeting or overtaking the school vehicle **OR**  
12 **FORMER SCHOOL VEHICLE** may not proceed until the school vehicle **OR FORMER**  
13 **SCHOOL VEHICLE** resumes motion or the alternately flashing red lights are  
14 deactivated.

15 (c) This section does not apply to the driver of a vehicle on a divided  
16 highway, if the school vehicle **OR FORMER SCHOOL VEHICLE** is on a different  
17 roadway.

18 22–218.

19 (b) (2) Every school vehicle meeting the requirements established by the  
20 Administrator shall be equipped with alternately flashing warning lights in  
21 accordance with the standards adopted under § 22–228 of this subtitle.

22 (e) Except as provided in subsection (c)(3) of this section, the flashing  
23 lighting described in subsections (b) and (c) of this section may not be used on any  
24 vehicle other than an emergency vehicle, service vehicle, or school vehicle **OR**  
25 **FORMER SCHOOL VEHICLE**.

26 22–228.

27 (a) (1) (i) The Administrator may adopt regulations for lighting  
28 equipment, special warning devices, markings, and identification to be used by school  
29 vehicles.

30 (ii) Regulations adopted under this paragraph shall be  
31 consistent with the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law.

32 (2) (i) A school vehicle registered in the State shall be equipped  
33 with an 8–light system of alternately flashing lights.

34 (ii) The 8–light safety system of alternately flashing lights shall  
35 meet the standards contained in the SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) Standard

1 J887 (May 1982), and shall consist of 2 amber lights and 2 red lights at the rear of the  
2 vehicle, and 2 amber lights and 2 red lights at the front of the vehicle.

3 (3) A school vehicle may be equipped with a white flashing light  
4 installed on the roof of the vehicle.

5 (4) School vehicles shall be marked and identified as provided in, and  
6 school vehicle lighting equipment and special warning devices shall conform with, the  
7 regulations adopted by the Administrator.

8 (b) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a person may not  
9 operate any alternately flashing light on any school vehicle except when the school  
10 vehicle is stopping or stopped on a roadway for the purpose of receiving or discharging  
11 passengers.

12 (c) (1) As to any school vehicle, whenever the vehicle is not being  
13 operated on a highway for the transportation of children, students, or teachers for  
14 educational purposes or in connection with a school activity:

15 [(1)] (I) The alternately flashing lights shall be deactivated; and

16 [(2)] (II) The words "school bus" at the front and rear of the vehicle  
17 shall be covered or otherwise concealed.

18 (2) AS TO ANY FORMER SCHOOL VEHICLE:

19 (I) WHENEVER THE VEHICLE IS NOT BEING OPERATED ON  
20 A HIGHWAY FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF PERSONS, THE ALTERNATELY  
21 FLASHING LIGHTS SHALL BE DEACTIVATED; AND

22 (II) THE WORDS "SCHOOL BUS" AT THE FRONT AND REAR  
23 OF THE VEHICLE SHALL BE COVERED OR OTHERWISE CONCEALED.

24 (d) Except as otherwise provided in this section, every school vehicle driver  
25 shall put in operation alternately flashing amber lights not less than 100 feet before  
26 bringing the vehicle to a full stop for the purpose of receiving or discharging  
27 passengers, and place into operation the alternately flashing red lights upon stopping.

28 (e) (1) This subsection applies only to a school vehicle being driven on the  
29 same roadway as another school vehicle in the act of loading or unloading passengers.

30 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, every school vehicle  
31 driver shall put in operation the alternately flashing lights when approaching from the  
32 rear or the front, within 100 feet of another school vehicle in the act of loading or  
33 unloading passengers on the roadway.

1 (f) (1) In this subsection, "loading zone" means an area:

2 (i) That is:

3 1. On a highway, but not on the roadway, for use in  
4 receiving or discharging passengers residing on the same side of the highway as the  
5 loading zone; or

6 2. Not on a highway; and

7 (ii) Whose location has been designated and approved by either  
8 the superintendent of schools in the local school system in which the loading zone is  
9 located, the Department of State Police, or the local police department, in cooperation  
10 with the State Highway Administration or local traffic engineering agency, as  
11 applicable.

12 (2) It is the policy of this State to encourage the establishment and use  
13 of loading zones for school vehicles.

14 (3) Where a loading zone is available, a school vehicle driver, unless  
15 otherwise required for safety, may not stop on the roadway for the purpose of receiving  
16 or discharging passengers, but shall use the loading zone for this purpose.

17 (g) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, a driver of a school  
18 vehicle shall stop on the roadway to:

19 (1) Receive passengers when transporting them to school; or

20 (2) Discharge passengers when transporting them from school.

21 **(H) A FORMER SCHOOL VEHICLE THAT REMAINS THE COLOR OF**  
22 **NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS YELLOW MAY BE EQUIPPED WITH AND USE LIGHTING**  
23 **AND STOP SIGNAL ARMS AUTHORIZED FOR A SCHOOL VEHICLE CONSISTENT**  
24 **WITH THIS SECTION AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.**

25 22-418.

26 (a) School vehicles shall be painted yellow, in accordance with  
27 Administration regulations, using the color known as national school bus yellow, as  
28 specified in federal standards.

29 (b) Unless otherwise permitted or authorized by the Maryland Vehicle Law  
30 or by Administration regulation **AND EXCEPT FOR FORMER SCHOOL VEHICLES**, no  
31 other vehicle designed for carrying passengers may be painted national school bus  
32 yellow or a closely approximate color.

1           (c)     The Administrator may issue regulations for a phase-in of compliance  
2 with this section.

3           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
4 October 1, 2013.