

HOUSE BILL 2

R5

4lr0358

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Vitale**

Requested: July 29, 2013

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2014

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles – Driving to the Right on Laned Roadways**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that a motor vehicle on certain laned roadways be
4 driven in the lane nearest to the right edge or curb of the roadway when that
5 lane is available for travel; establishing certain exceptions to the requirement;
6 and generally relating to a requirement to drive to the right on laned roadways.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – Transportation

9 Section 21–309

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Transportation**

15 21–309.

16 (a) On any roadway that is divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for
17 vehicular traffic, the following rules, in addition to any others consistent with them,
18 apply.

19 **(A-1) ON AN EXPRESSWAY OR A CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAY, A**
20 **MOTOR VEHICLE SHALL BE DRIVEN IN THE LANE NEAREST TO THE RIGHT EDGE**
21 **OR CURB OF THE ROADWAY WHEN THAT LANE IS AVAILABLE FOR TRAVEL**
22 **EXCEPT:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(1) WHILE OVERTAKING AND PASSING ANOTHER VEHICLE GOING**
2 **IN THE SAME DIRECTION IN THE ADJACENT LANE TO THE RIGHT OF THE**
3 **OVERTAKING VEHICLE;**

4 **(2) WHILE IN PREPARATION FOR A LEFT TURN OR AN EXIT; OR**

5 **(3) WHILE IN A HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANE IF THE HIGH**
6 **OCCUPANCY VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT.**

7 (b) A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as practicable entirely within a single
8 lane and may not be moved from that lane or moved from a shoulder or bikeway into a
9 lane until the driver has determined that it is safe to do so.

10 (c) On a roadway that is divided into three lanes and that provides for
11 two-way movement of traffic, a vehicle may not be driven in the center lane except:

12 (1) While overtaking and passing another vehicle going in the same
13 direction and while the center lane is clear of traffic within a safe distance;

14 (2) In preparing to make a left turn; or

15 (3) When the center lane is allocated exclusively to traffic moving in
16 the same direction that the vehicle is going and the allocation is designated by a traffic
17 control device.

18 (d) The driver of a vehicle shall obey the directions of each traffic control
19 device that directs specified traffic to use a designated lane or that designates those
20 lanes to be used by traffic moving in a particular direction, regardless of the center of
21 the roadway.

22 (e) The driver of a vehicle shall obey the directions of each traffic control
23 device that prohibits changing lanes on sections of a roadway.

24 (f) On a roadway that has two or more lanes for traffic moving in the same
25 direction, the driver of any truck, truck tractor, trailer, or bus shall obey the directions
26 of each traffic control device that requires the vehicle to be driven in a certain lane.

27 (g) On a roadway along which a two-way left turn lane has been provided
28 through traffic control devices, vehicles may not enter that lane except when
29 preparing for or making a left turn from or into the roadway or when preparing for or
30 making a U-turn, and may enter only if the lane is clear of an opposing movement.

31 (h) A vehicle shall be driven within a lane described under subsection (g) of
32 this section the shortest distance practicable prior to making a left turn or U-turn or
33 after making a left turn.

1 (i) On roadways along which a two-way left turn lane has been placed, left
2 turns shall be made only from within such lane.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 2014.