

# HOUSE BILL 436

R5

4r2197  
CF SB 3

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By: **Delegates Rudolph and Malone**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2014

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Operation of Vehicle When Approaching a Tow Truck or**  
3 **Service Vehicle**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring drivers approaching a tow truck or service vehicle that is  
5 stopped, standing, or parked on a highway and using certain visual signals,  
6 unless otherwise directed by a police officer or traffic control device, to make a  
7 lane change into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the tow truck or  
8 service vehicle under certain circumstances, or to slow to a reasonable and  
9 prudent speed that is safe for certain existing conditions under certain  
10 circumstances; and generally relating to the rules of the road when approaching  
11 tow trucks or service vehicles.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Transportation  
14 Section 21–405(e)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
18 Article – Transportation  
19 Section 22–218(c)(6) and (11)  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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 21–405.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (e) Unless otherwise directed by a police officer or a traffic control device,  
2 when an emergency vehicle, **A TOW TRUCK, OR A SERVICE VEHICLE** using any visual  
3 signal that meets the requirements of § 22–218 of this article is stopped, standing, or  
4 parked on a highway, the driver of a motor vehicle approaching the emergency vehicle,  
5 **TOW TRUCK, OR SERVICE VEHICLE** from the rear shall:

6 (1) If practicable and not otherwise prohibited, make a lane change  
7 into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the emergency vehicle, **TOW**  
8 **TRUCK, OR SERVICE VEHICLE** with due regard for safety and traffic conditions; or

9 (2) If the driver of the motor vehicle is unable to make a lane change  
10 in accordance with item (1) of this subsection, slow to a reasonable and prudent speed  
11 that is safe for existing weather, road, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic conditions.

12 22–218.

13 (c) (6) Service vehicles, rural letter carrier vehicles, slow moving farm  
14 vehicles, and tow trucks may be equipped with or display yellow or amber lights or  
15 signal devices.

16 (11) The yellow or amber lights or signal devices permitted on vehicles  
17 under paragraph (6) of this subsection may be flashed or oscillated or otherwise used  
18 only in the course of official duties, to indicate to the public that the vehicle is a slow  
19 moving vehicle or otherwise is impeding traffic.

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