

HOUSE BILL 818

R5

5lr2164

By: **Delegates Fraser–Hidalgo, Pena–Melnik, Barkley, Carr, Morales, and Smith**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2015

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 20, 2015

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Rules of the Road – Lane Changes**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the circumstances under which a driver may move out of or
4 into a lane by authorizing the move when ~~it is safe to do so rather than when~~ the
5 driver has reasonably determined it is safe to do ~~so~~; so and activated the appropriate
6 turn signal; prohibiting a person from moving a vehicle right or left on a roadway in
7 order to change lanes unless the person gives an appropriate signal in a certain
8 manner, subject to a certain exception; making certain stylistic changes; and
9 generally relating to rules of the road for driving on laned roadways and changing
10 lanes.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Transportation
13 Section 21–309(b) and 21–604
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
17 Article – Transportation
18 Section 21–605
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



Article – Transportation

1
2 21–309.

3 (b) A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as practicable entirely within a single lane
4 and may not be moved from that lane or moved from a shoulder or bikeway into a lane until
5 ~~the driver has~~ REASONABLY determined that ~~it is safe to do so~~ AND ACTIVATED THE
6 APPROPRIATE TURN SIGNAL.

7 21–604.

8 (a) A person may not turn a vehicle at an intersection, unless the vehicle is in the
9 position required by § 21–601 of this subtitle.

10 (b) A person may not turn a vehicle to enter a private road or driveway or
11 otherwise turn a vehicle from a direct course or move it right or left on a roadway or from
12 a shoulder or bikeway onto a roadway, unless the movement can be made with reasonable
13 safety.

14 (c) A person may not, if any other vehicle might be affected by the movement,
15 turn a vehicle [until he] OR MOVE IT RIGHT OR LEFT ON A ROADWAY IN ORDER TO
16 CHANGE LANES UNLESS THE PERSON gives an appropriate signal in the manner
17 required by this subtitle.

18 (d) (1) When required, a signal of intention to turn right or left shall be given
19 continuously during at least the last 100 feet traveled by the vehicle before [turning;]
20 TURNING, except that a bicyclist may interrupt the turning signal to maintain control of
21 the bicycle.

22 (2) WHEN REQUIRED, A SIGNAL OF INTENTION TO CHANGE LANES
23 SHALL BE GIVEN CONTINUOUSLY BEFORE CHANGING LANES, EXCEPT THAT A
24 BICYCLIST MAY INTERRUPT THE TURNING SIGNAL TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE
25 BICYCLE.

26 (e) If there is an opportunity to signal, a person may not stop or suddenly decrease
27 the speed of a vehicle [until he] UNLESS THE PERSON gives an appropriate signal in the
28 manner required by this subtitle to the driver of any other vehicle immediately to the rear.

29 (f) The signals provided for in § 21–605(b) and (c) of this subtitle:

30 (1) May be used to indicate an intention to turn, change lanes, or start from
31 a stopped, standing, or parked position; and

32 (2) May not be flashed as a courtesy or “do pass” signal to the driver of any
33 other vehicle approaching from the rear.

1 21-605.

2 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, each required stop
3 or turn signal shall be given:

4 (1) By hand and arm in conformity with § 21-606 of this subtitle; or

5 (2) By signal lamps.

6 (b) Each motor vehicle in use on a highway shall be equipped with and the
7 required signal given by signal lamps, if the distance from the center of the top of the
8 steering post to the left outside limit of the body, cab, or load of the vehicle is more than 24
9 inches.

10 (c) Each motor vehicle in use on a highway shall be equipped with and the
11 required signal given by signal lamps if, for any vehicle or combination of vehicles, the
12 distance from the center of the top of the steering post to the rear limit of the body or load
13 is more than 14 feet.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2015.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.