

SENATE BILL 98

R5

5lr0820

By: **Senators Norman, Bates, Cassilly, Eckardt, Edwards, Reilly, Salling, Simonaire, and Waugh**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2015

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Operation of Vehicle When Approaching a Service Vehicle**

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

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Transportation
12 Section 21–405(e)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
16 Article – Transportation
17 Section 22–201 and 22–218(c)(6) and (11)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

22
23 21–405.

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, when
2 an emergency vehicle [or], a tow truck that is properly registered in accordance with §
3 13–920 of this article, **OR A SERVICE VEHICLE, AS DEFINED IN § 22–201 OF THIS**
4 **ARTICLE**, using any visual signal that meets the requirements of § 22–218 of this article
5 is stopped, standing, or parked on a highway, the driver of a motor vehicle approaching the
6 emergency vehicle [or], tow truck, **OR SERVICE VEHICLE** from the rear shall:

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

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

13 22–201.

14 In this subtitle, “service vehicles” means any of the following vehicles that are
15 designated by the Administration as service vehicles:

16 (1) Vehicles of federal, State, or local agencies;

17 (2) Vehicles of public service companies; and

18 (3) Vehicles of persons performing governmental functions under a
19 contract with any federal, State, or local government.

20 22–218.

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

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

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