

# HOUSE BILL 1043

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By: **Delegates Malone, Beidle, Dumais, Flanagan, Fraser-Hidalgo, McComas, and Otto**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2016

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

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 the driver has reasonably determined it is  
5 safe to do so and activated the appropriate turn signal; prohibiting a person from  
6 moving a vehicle right or left on a roadway in order to change lanes unless the person  
7 gives an appropriate signal in a certain manner, subject to a certain exception;  
8 providing that a violation of this Act is not a moving violation for the purpose of  
9 assessing points; establishing certain penalties for violations of this Act; making  
10 certain stylistic changes; and generally relating to rules of the road for driving on  
11 laned roadways and changing lanes.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Transportation  
14 Section 21–309(b) and 21–604  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
18 Article – Transportation  
19 Section 21–605 and 27–101(a) and (b)  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

22 BY adding to  
23 Article – Transportation  
24 Section 27–101(gg)  
25 Annotated Code of Maryland  
26 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Transportation**

4 21–309.

5 (b) (1) A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as practicable entirely within a  
6 single lane and may not be moved from that lane or moved from a shoulder or bikeway into  
7 a lane until the driver has:

8 (I) REASONABLY determined that it is safe to do so; AND

9 (II) ACTIVATED THE APPROPRIATE TURN SIGNAL.

10 (2) A VIOLATION OF PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION IS NOT  
11 A MOVING VIOLATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSESSING POINTS UNDER § 16–402 OF  
12 THIS ARTICLE.

13 21–604.

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

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

20 (c) [A person may not, if any other vehicle might be affected by the movement,  
21 turn a vehicle until he gives an appropriate signal in the manner required by this subtitle]  
22 **IF THE MOVEMENT OF A VEHICLE MIGHT AFFECT ANOTHER VEHICLE, THE DRIVER**  
23 **SHALL GIVE AN APPROPRIATE SIGNAL IN THE MANNER REQUIRED BY THIS SUBTITLE**  
24 **IN ORDER TO:**

25 (1) **TURN THE VEHICLE; OR**

26 (2) **MOVE THE VEHICLE RIGHT OR LEFT ON A ROADWAY IN ORDER TO**  
27 **CHANGE LANES.**

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

1           **(2) WHEN REQUIRED, A SIGNAL OF INTENTION TO CHANGE LANES**  
2 **SHALL BE GIVEN CONTINUOUSLY BEFORE CHANGING LANES, EXCEPT THAT A**  
3 **BICYCLIST MAY INTERRUPT THE TURNING SIGNAL TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE**  
4 **BICYCLE.**

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

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

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

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

13           **(G) A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (C)(2) OR (D)(2) OF THIS SECTION IS NOT**  
14 **A MOVING VIOLATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSESSING POINTS UNDER § 16–402 OF**  
15 **THIS ARTICLE.**

16 21–605.

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

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

20           (2) By signal lamps.

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

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

29 27–101.

30           (a) It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of the  
31 Maryland Vehicle Law unless the violation:

1 (1) Is declared to be a felony by the Maryland Vehicle Law or by any other  
2 law of this State; or

3 (2) Is punishable by a civil penalty under the applicable provision of the  
4 Maryland Vehicle Law.

5 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person convicted of a  
6 misdemeanor for the violation of any of the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law is  
7 subject to a fine of not more than \$500.

8 **(GG) A PERSON WHO IS CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF § 21-309(B)(1)(II)**  
9 **(“ENTERING LANE WITHOUT GIVING APPROPRIATE TURN SIGNAL”) OR §**  
10 **21-604(C)(2) (“CHANGING LANES WITHOUT GIVING APPROPRIATE TURN SIGNAL”)**  
11 **OR (D)(2) (“FAILURE TO GIVE TURN SIGNAL CONTINUOUSLY BEFORE CHANGING**  
12 **LANES”) OF THIS ARTICLE IS SUBJECT TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$100.**

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
14 October 1, 2016.