

HOUSE BILL 1451

R5

7lr0722

By: **Delegates Folden, Parrott, C. Howard, S. Howard, McKay, McMillan, W. Miller, Oaks, and C. Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2017

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 16, 2017

CHAPTER _____

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Laws – Left Lane – Use for Passing

FOR the purpose of providing that, on a roadway that has ~~two~~ three or more lanes for traffic moving in the same direction with a certain posted maximum speed limit, the far left lane may be used only for overtaking and passing another vehicle in a certain manner and under certain circumstances; establishing certain penalties for a violation of this Act; making a certain stylistic change; and generally relating to the overtaking and passing of vehicles.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 21–303
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

21–303.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, this section governs the overtaking and passing of vehicles going in the same direction.

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.



(b) The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle that is going in the same direction shall pass to the left of the overtaken vehicle at a safe distance.

(c) The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle that is going in the same direction, until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle, may not drive any part of [his] **THE DRIVER'S** vehicle directly in front of the overtaken vehicle.

(d) **(1)** Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle, on audible signal, shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle.

(2) (I) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ON A ROADWAY THAT HAS ~~TWO~~ THREE OR MORE LANES FOR TRAFFIC MOVING IN THE SAME DIRECTION AND WITH A POSTED MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT OF 55 MILES PER HOUR OR MORE, A DRIVER MAY USE THE FAR LEFT LANE ONLY FOR OVERTAKING AND PASSING ANOTHER VEHICLE AND, AFTER OVERTAKING AND PASSING THE OTHER VEHICLE, SHALL RETURN TO THE RIGHT LANE AS SOON AS IT IS REASONABLY SAFE TO DO SO.

(II) SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT APPLY TO:

1. A VEHICLE IN THE FAR LEFT LANE PREPARING FOR A LEFT TURN OR LEFT EXIT;

2. A VEHICLE IN A HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANE IF:

A. THE HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANE IS A SINGLE LANE MOVING IN ONE DIRECTION; AND

B. THE HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT; OR

3. TRAFFIC CONDITIONS THAT REQUIRE THE USE OF ALL ROADWAY LANES.

(e) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle, until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle, may not increase the speed of [his] **THE DRIVER'S** vehicle.

(F) A PERSON WHO IS CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (D)(2)(I) OF THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO:

(1) FOR A FIRST OFFENSE, A FINE OF \$75;

(2) FOR A SECOND OFFENSE, A FINE OF \$150; AND

(3) FOR A THIRD OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, A FINE OF \$250.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.