HOUSE BILL 158

R6, R5

By: Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (By Request – Departmental – State Police)

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Laws – Equipment and Inspections – Standards and Requirements

FOR the purpose of altering for vehicle operation and inspection purposes the standards for the authorized placement of certain materials on certain windows of certain vehicles; prohibiting the use of certain equipment on a highway under certain circumstances; altering certain standards and requirements governing headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, light or signal devices, backup lamps, brakes, and windshield washers on certain vehicles; establishing a certain maximum period of validity for a medical certification that authorizes enhanced window tinting on a vehicle; providing for the construction of a certain provision of law that authorizes enhanced window tinting on a vehicle; altering the standards and requirements for applications, testing, and administrative enforcement for inspection mechanic licenses; repealing certain obsolete or redundant provisions of law governing vehicle equipment; making certain stylistic changes and technical corrections; and generally relating to standards and requirements for vehicle equipment and inspections.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 21–1104(d), 22–101(b), 22–203, 22–206(a) and (b), 22–219(a), 22–222, 22–227(f), 22–302, 22–404, 22–406(i), 23–101(e) and (h), 23–103.1, and 23–104

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 22–101(a), 22–218(c)(1), and 23–101(a) and (b)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Transportation

21–1104.

(d) (1) Except as provided in [paragraphs (2) and (3)] PARAGRAPH (2) of this subsection, a person may not drive a vehicle with any sign, poster, card, sticker, or other nontransparent material on the windshield, side wings, or side or rear windows of the vehicle.

(2) This subsection does not apply to:

(i) NONTRANSPARENT MATERIAL PLACED ON THE WINDSHIELD OF A MOTOR VEHICLE ABOVE THE AS1 LINE OR NOT LOWER THAN 5 INCHES FROM THE TOP OF THE WINDSHIELD, WHICHERVER IS LESS, IF THE MATERIALS ARE PLACED SO AS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE DRIVER’S CLEAR VIEW OF TRAFFIC;

(II) Materials placed on the windshield or rear window, within a 7 inch square area in the lower corner, [or on the side windows of the vehicle to the rear of the driver,] if the materials are placed so as not to interfere with the driver’s clear view of traffic;

(III) MATERIALS PLACED ON THE SIDE WINDOWS OF A CLASS A (PASSENGER) VEHICLE TO THE REAR OF THE DRIVER, IF THE MATERIALS ARE PLACED SO AS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE DRIVER’S CLEAR VIEW OF TRAFFIC;

(iv) MATERIALS PLACED ON THE SIDE OR REAR WINDOWS OF A CLASS M (MULTIPURPOSE) VEHICLE OR CLASS E (TRUCK) VEHICLE PROVIDED THAT THE VEHICLE IS EQUIPPED WITH TWO OUTSIDE REARVIEW MIRRORS, ONE EACH ATTACHED TO THE RIGHT AND LEFT SIDE OF THE VEHICLE;
(V) Materials placed on the windshield in compliance
with security measures required by a federal or state government
agency, provided that the decal is affixed to the vehicle in accordance
with the issuing agency’s guidelines;

[(iii) (vi) Direction, destination, or termini signs on any passenger
common carrier motor vehicle; or

[(iii)] (VII) Electronic] AN ELECTRONIC toll collection [tags]
device placed [in] on the windshield of a vehicle in accordance with the [regulations of]
guidelines established by the Maryland Transportation Authority.

[(3) The Administration shall adopt regulations to exempt from the
provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection materials placed on the windshield of a vehicle
in compliance with security measures required by a federal or state government agency
and approved by the Administration.]

22–101.

(a) (1) A person may not drive and the owner may not cause or knowingly
permit to be driven on any highway any vehicle or combination of vehicles that:

(i) Is in such unsafe condition as to endanger any person;

(ii) Does not contain those parts or is not at all times equipped with
lamps and other equipment in proper condition and adjustment as required in this title; or

(iii) Is equipped in any manner in violation of this title.

(2) A person may not do any act forbidden or fail to do any act required
under this title.

(b) (1) Nothing contained in this title shall be construed to prohibit the use of
additional parts and accessories on any vehicle not inconsistent with the provisions of this
title.

(2) A PERSON MAY NOT OPERATE WORK EQUIPMENT THAT IS ADDED
TO A VEHICLE FOR A DESIGNATED PURPOSE OTHER THAN DRIVING THE VEHICLE ON
A HIGHWAY WHILE THE VEHICLE IS BEING DRIVEN ON A HIGHWAY UNLESS THE
VEHICLE IS BEING USED TO CONDUCT AUTHORIZED WORK ON THE HIGHWAY.

(3) A PERSON MAY NOT OPERATE ON A VEHICLE EQUIPMENT THAT IS
INTENDED FOR OFF–ROAD USE WHILE THE VEHICLE IS BEING DRIVEN ON A
HIGHWAY.
(a) In this section, the term “motorcycle” includes Class M (multipurpose) vehicles that are designated by the Administrator.

(b) Every motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, shall be equipped with at least two headlamps with at least one on each side of the front of the motor vehicle, which headlamps shall emit white light and comply with the requirements and limitations set forth in this title.

(c) (1) Every motorcycle shall be equipped with at least one and not more than two headlamps that comply with the requirements and limitations of this title.

(2) A headlamp on a motorcycle may modulate either the upper beam or the lower beam from its maximum intensity to a lesser intensity, consistent with federal motor vehicle safety standards.

(d) Every headlamp on every motor vehicle, including every motorcycle, shall be located at a height of not more than 54 inches nor less than 22 inches.

22–206.

(a) Every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer shall be equipped with at least one stop lamp meeting the requirements of § 22–219(a) of this subtitle, and the following vehicles shall meet the following additional requirements:

(1) (I) Every motor vehicle, OTHER THAN A MOTORCYCLE, registered in this State and sold as a new vehicle after June 1, 1967, shall be equipped with at least two stop lamps; [and]

(II) EVERY PASSENGER VEHICLE MANUFACTURED ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 1985, SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH A RED CENTER HIGH MOUNT STOP LAMP, WHICH MAY PULSATE UP TO 3 SECONDS BEFORE REMAINING ILLUMINATED, MOUNTED WITH ITS CENTER ON THE VERTICAL CENTERLINE OF THE VEHICLE AS THE VEHICLE IS VIEWED FROM THE REAR; AND

(III) EVERY PICKUP TRUCK, VAN, AND SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE MANUFACTURED ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 1993, SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH A RED CENTER HIGH MOUNT STOP LAMP, WHICH MAY PULSATE UP TO 3 SECONDS BEFORE REMAINING ILLUMINATED, MOUNTED WITH ITS CENTER ON THE VERTICAL CENTERLINE OF THE VEHICLE AS THE VEHICLE IS VIEWED FROM THE REAR;

(2) After July 1, 1971, every trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer shall be equipped with at least two stop lamps; AND
(3) **Motorcycle stop lamps may pulsate for up to 3 seconds before remaining illuminated.**

(b) Every motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer registered in this State and sold as a new vehicle after June 1, 1961, shall be equipped with electric turn signal lamps meeting the requirements of § 22–219(b) through (h) of this subtitle, except that:

(1) Motorcycles **manufactured before January 1, 1973**, need not be equipped with electric turn signal lamps; and

(2) The requirements of this section apply only to those trailers, semitrailers, and pole trailers that are registered in this State and sold as new vehicles on or after July 1, 1971.

22–218.

(c) (1) A person may not drive or move on any highway any vehicle or equipment that is equipped with or displays any light or signal device designed to emit an oscillating, rotating, blinking, or other type of emission of light, unless designated and authorized by the Administrator as indicated in paragraphs (2) through (13) of this subsection. The provisions of this section do not prohibit the display and use of any lighting device that may be permitted or required elsewhere in the Maryland Vehicle Law.

(H) A vehicle used to provide ride share services may be equipped with and display a static red, blue, or other color lighted sign identifying the vehicle as a ride share provider.

22–219.

(a) Any vehicle may be equipped with and, when required under the Maryland Vehicle Law, shall be equipped with a stop lamp or lamps on the rear of the vehicle, which:

(1) Shall display a red [or amber] light, [or any shade of color between red and amber,] visible from a distance of not less than 300 feet to the rear in normal sunlight;

(2) Shall be actuated on application of the service [(foot)] brake; and

(3) May, but need not, be incorporated with one or more other rear lamps.

22–222.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in the Maryland Vehicle Law, the headlamps or the auxiliary driving lamp or combination thereof on motor vehicles[, other than motorcycles,] shall be so arranged that the driver may select at will between distributions
of light projected to different elevations, and the lamps, in addition, may be so arranged
that the selection can be made automatically, subject to the following limitations:

(1) There shall be an uppermost distribution of light, or composite beam,
so aimed and of intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 450 feet
ahead for all conditions of loading;

(2) There shall be a lowermost distribution of light, or composite beam, so
aimed and of sufficient intensity to reveal persons and vehicles at a distance of at least 150
feet ahead; [and]

(3) On a straight level road under any condition of loading, none of the
high–intensity portion of the beam may be directed to strike the eyes of an approaching
driver; AND

(4) NOT MORE THAN FOUR LAMPS THAT PROJECT A BEAM OF LIGHT
OF AN INTENSITY GREATER THAN 300 CANDLEPOWER MAY BE ILLUMINATED
SIMULTANEOUSLY.

(b) Every new motor vehicle[, other than a motorcycle, registered in this State
after January 1, 1955, which has multiple–beam road–lighting equipment] shall be
equipped with a beam indicator, which shall be lighted whenever the uppermost
distribution of light from the headlamps is in use, and may not otherwise be lighted.

(c) The indicator shall be so designed and located that, when lighted, it will be
readily visible without glare to the driver of the vehicle so equipped.

Headlamp systems that provide only a single distribution of light shall be permitted
on motor vehicles manufactured and sold before June 1, 1944, instead of the specified
multiple–beam road–lighting equipment, if the single distribution of light complies with
the following requirements and limitations:

(1) The headlamps are so aimed that, when the vehicle is not loaded, none
of the high–intensity portion of the light at a distance of 25 feet ahead projects higher than
a level of 5 inches below the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes and, in no
case, higher than 42 inches above the level on which the vehicle stands at a distance of 75
feet ahead; and

(2) The intensity shall be sufficient to reveal persons and vehicles at a
distance of at least 200 feet.]

(a) In this section, “motorcycle” includes Class M (multipurpose) vehicles that are
designated by the Administrator.

(b) The headlamp or headlamps on a motorcycle may be of the single–beam or multiple–beam type, but in either event shall comply with the following requirements and limitations:

(1) The headlamp or headlamps on a motorcycle shall be of sufficient intensity to reveal a person or a vehicle at a distance of:

(i) Not less than 100 feet, when the motorcycle is operated at any speed of less than 25 miles per hour;

(ii) Not less than 200 feet, when the motorcycle is operated at a speed of 25 to 34 miles per hour; and

(iii) Not less than 300 feet, when the motorcycle is operated at a speed of 35 miles per hour or more;

(2) If the motorcycle is equipped with a multiple–beam headlamp or headlamps, the upper beam shall meet the minimum requirements set forth above and may not exceed the limitations set forth in § 22–222(a)(1) of this subtitle, and the lowermost beam shall meet the requirements applicable to a lowermost distribution of light as set forth in § 22–222(a)(2) of this subtitle; and

(3) If the motorcycle is equipped with a single–beam lamp or lamps, the lamp or lamps shall be so aimed that, when the vehicle is loaded, none of the high–intensity portion of light, at a distance of 25 feet ahead, projects higher than the level of the center of the lamp from which it comes.

(f) All lighting devices and reflectors mounted on the rear of any vehicle shall display or reflect a red color, except the [stoplight or other] TURN signal [device] AND HAZARD WARNING LAMPS, which may be red, amber, or yellow, and except that the light illuminating the registration plate shall be white and the light emitted by a backup lamp shall be white [or amber].

(a) Every motor vehicle and combination of vehicles, at all times and under all conditions of loading, on application of the service brake, shall be capable of:

(1) Developing a braking force that is not less than the percentage of its gross weight tabulated in subsection (c) of this section for its classification;

(2) Decelerating to a stop from not more than 20 miles per hour at not less
than the feet per second tabulated in subsection (c) of this section for its classification; and

(3) Stopping from a speed of 20 miles per hour in not more than the distance tabulated in subsection (c) of this section for its classification, this distance to be measured from the point at which movement of the service brake pedal or control begins.

(b) Tests for deceleration and stopping distance shall be made on a substantially level (not to exceed plus or minus 1 percent grade), dry, smooth, hard surface that is free from loose material.

(c) The following table sets forth the tabulations referred to in subsection (a) of this section:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification of vehicle</th>
<th>Braking force as a percentage of gross vehicle or combination weight</th>
<th>Deceleration in feet per second</th>
<th>Brake system application and braking distance in feet from an initial speed of 20 m.p.h.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>52.8%</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-1</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-2</td>
<td>[43.5%] 31%</td>
<td>[14] 10</td>
<td>[30] 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-1</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-2</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-3</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Passenger vehicles with a seating capacity of 10 people or less including driver, not having a manufacturer’s gross vehicle weight rating..

All motorcycles .............

Single unit vehicles with a manufacturer’s gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less.............................

Single unit vehicles with a manufacturer’s gross weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds..............................

Combination of a two–axle towing vehicle and a trailer with a gross weight of 3,000 pounds or less..............

Buses, regardless of the number of axles, not having a
(a) (1) [A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A
person may not drive any motor vehicle with any sign, poster, CARD, STICKER, or other
nontransparent material on the front windshield [or], sidewings, OR SIDE OR REAR
WINDOWS of the vehicle other than a certificate or other paper either required to be so
displayed by law or authorized by the Administrator.

(B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:

(1) NONTRANSPARENT MATERIAL PLACED ON THE WINDSHIELD OF A
MOTOR VEHICLE ABOVE THE AS1 LINE OR NOT LOWER THAN 5 INCHES FROM THE
TOP OF THE WINDSHIELD, WHICHEVER IS LESS, IF THE MATERIALS ARE PLACED SO
AS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE DRIVER’S CLEAR VIEW OF TRAFFIC;

(2) MATERIALS PLACED ON THE WINDSHIELD OR REAR WINDOW,
WITHIN A 7 INCH SQUARE AREA IN THE LOWER CORNER, IF THE MATERIALS ARE
PLACED SO AS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE DRIVER’S CLEAR VIEW OF TRAFFIC;

(3) MATERIALS PLACED ON THE SIDE WINDOWS OF A CLASS A
(PASSENGER) VEHICLE TO THE REAR OF THE DRIVER, IF THE MATERIALS ARE
PLACED SO AS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE DRIVER’S CLEAR VIEW OF TRAFFIC;

(4) MATERIALS PLACED ON THE SIDE OR REAR WINDOWS OF A CLASS
M (MULTIPURPOSE) VEHICLE OR CLASS E (TRUCK) VEHICLE PROVIDED THAT THE
VEHICLE IS EQUIPPED WITH TWO OUTSIDE REARVIEW MIRRORS, ONE EACH
ATTACHED TO THE RIGHT AND LEFT SIDE OF THE VEHICLE;

(5) MATERIALS PLACED ON THE WINDSHIELD IN COMPLIANCE WITH
SECURITY MEASURES REQUIRED BY A FEDERAL OR STATE GOVERNMENT AGENCY,
PROVIDED THAT THE DECAL IS AFFIXED TO THE VEHICLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
ISSUING AGENCY’S GUIDELINES;

(6) DIRECTION, DESTINATION, OR TERMINI SIGNS ON ANY
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1  PASSENGER COMMON CARRIER MOTOR VEHICLE; OR

   (7) AN ELECTRONIC TOLL COLLECTION DEVICE PLACED ON THE
2  WINDSHIELD OF A VEHICLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED
3  BY THE MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY.

   [(b)] (C) The windshield on every motor vehicle, except motorcycles, shall be
5  equipped with a device for CLEARING AND cleaning rain, snow, or other moisture from the
6  windshield, which device shall be constructed to be controlled or operated by the driver of
7  the vehicle.

   [(c)] (D) Every windshield wiper on a motor vehicle shall be maintained in good
9  working order.

   (E) (1) IF A MOTOR VEHICLE WAS ORIGINALLY EQUIPPED WITH
11  WINDSHIELD WASHERS, THE WASHERS SHALL BE OPERATIONAL AND CAPABLE OF
12  CONTAINING WASHER FLUID AND DISTRIBUTING WASHER FLUID ONTO THE
13  WINDSHIELD.

   (2) A WINDSHIELD WASHER SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED TO BE
15  CONTROLLED OR OPERATED BY THE DRIVER OF THE VEHICLE.

22–406.

   (i) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, a person may
19  not operate a vehicle registered under § 13–912, § 13–913, § 13–917, or § 13–937 of this
20  article on a highway in this State if:

   (i) In the case of a vehicle registered under § 13–912 of this article,
22  there is affixed to any window of the vehicle any tinting materials added to the window
23  after manufacture of the vehicle that do not allow a light transmittance through the window
24  of at least 35%; and

   (ii) In the case of a vehicle registered under § 13–913, § 13–917, or §
26  13–937 of this article, there is affixed to any window to the immediate right or left of the
27  driver any window tinting materials added after manufacture of the vehicle that do not
28  allow a light transmittance through the window of at least 35%.

   (2) If a police officer observes that a vehicle is being operated in violation
30  of paragraph (1) of this subsection, the officer may stop the driver of the vehicle and, in
31  addition to a citation charging the driver with the offense, issue to the driver a safety
32  equipment repair order in accordance with the provisions of § 23–105 of this article.

   (3) A person may not install on a window of a vehicle any window tinting
34  material that does not comply with the light transmittance requirements specified in
paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(4) (i) A person who must be protected from the sun for medical reasons is exempt from the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection if the owner has, in the vehicle at the time the vehicle is stopped by a police officer, a written certification by the Automotive Safety Enforcement Division of the Department of State Police that details the owner’s medical need for tinted windows with a light transmittance of less than the allowed 35%, from a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State.

(II) A written certification under this paragraph shall be valid for a period of time that the licensed physician determines the owner needs the enhanced tinted windows, not to exceed 2 years.

[(ii)] (III) This subsection does not apply to tinting materials that:

1. Are affixed in such a manner so as to be easily removed;

and

2. Are being used to protect a child less than 10 years of age from the sun.

[(iii)] (IV) Nothing in this subsection may be construed to:

1. Allow any tinting materials to be added to the windshield of a vehicle below the AS1 line or below 5 inches from the top of the windshield; [or]

2. Prohibit a person from operating the vehicle while the person for whom the written certification is required is not present in the vehicle, provided that the written certification is in the vehicle; or

23–101.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Division” means the Automotive Safety Enforcement Division of the Department of State Police.

(e) “Inspection certificate” means a certification by an inspection station, in a
format established by the Division, that:

(1) Certifies that, as of its date, a specified vehicle meets or exceeds the standards for equipment established under this title; and

(2) Identifies the inspection station and the [registered] LICENSED individual who personally inspected the vehicle.

(h) “Repair order certification” means a written certification by an inspection station or police department that:

(1) Certifies that, as of its date, the equipment specified in a safety equipment repair order meets or exceeds the standards established under this subtitle; and

(2) Is signed and dated:

(i) On behalf of the inspection station by the [registered] LICENSED individual who personally inspected the vehicle; or

(ii) On behalf of the police department by the authorized police officer who personally inspected the vehicle.

23–103.1.

[(a) On receipt of an application and a $15 nonrefundable fee to take the inspection mechanic exam, the Division shall:

(1) Administer an exam to each mechanic applicant; and

(2) If the applicant is determined to be qualified, register the mechanic to conduct vehicle inspections.]

(A) AN APPLICANT FOR AN INSPECTION MECHANIC LICENSE SHALL SUBMIT TO THE DIVISION:

(1) AN APPLICATION IN THE MANNER AND FORMAT DESIGNATED BY THE DIVISION; AND

(2) A NONREFUNDABLE APPLICATION FEE OF $15 TO TAKE THE EXAMINATION.

(B) (1) THE DIVISION SHALL:

(1) ADMINISTER AN EXAMINATION TO EACH INSPECTION MECHANIC APPLICANT; AND
(II) IF THE DIVISION DETERMINES THE APPLICANT IS QUALIFIED, LICENSE THE INSPECTION MECHANIC APPLICANT TO CONDUCT VEHICLE INSPECTIONS.

(2) THE EXAMINATION SHALL INCLUDE A WRITTEN TEST AND A PRACTICAL TEST.

(b) The Division may establish standards by [rule or] regulation for the testing, qualifying, and [registering] LICENSING of inspection station mechanics.

(c) The Division may:

(1) FOR CAUSE, REQUIRE A REEXAMINATION OF A LICENSED INSPECTION MECHANIC FOR QUALIFICATION TO CONTINUE OR RESUME CONDUCTING VEHICLE INSPECTIONS;

(2) [For cause, suspend or revoke the mechanic’s [registration] LICENSE; [and] OR

(3) On suspension or revocation of the mechanic’s [registration] LICENSE, rescind the authorization to conduct vehicle inspections in accordance with this title.

23–104.

(a) Every vehicle driven on the highways in this State shall, where applicable, have the following equipment, meeting or exceeding the standards established jointly by the Administration and the Division: brakes, steering, suspension, horn, door handles, mirrors, tires, exhaust system, lights, glazing, windshield wipers, odometer, speedometer, bumpers, properly aligned wheels, wheels and wheel lugs, fenders, floor pans, hood, hood catches, emissions equipment, fuel system, front seat, motor mounts, gear selection indicator for automatic transmissions, universal joints, and seat belts or combination seat belt–shoulder harness if required as original equipment under § 22–412 or § 22–412.1 of this article.

(b) (1) The Administration and the Division jointly may establish standards by rule or regulation for this equipment.

(2) The Administration and the Division JOINTLY shall adopt, consistent with federal law, regulations establishing equipment, performance, and other technical standards for:

(1) MOTOR VEHICLES;
[1 (i)] (2) Autocycles; and

[2 (ii)] (3) Low speed vehicles.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.