

HOUSE BILL 174

R5

01r0052

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

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicle Offenses – Following Too Closely – Application to Trucks**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing that certain motor vehicle offenses related to following too
4 closely do not apply to a group of individual trucks that are traveling in a unified
5 manner at electronically connected speeds and are being operated in a certain
6 manner; authorizing the Motor Vehicle Administration to adopt regulations
7 governing motor vehicle offenses related to following too closely; and generally
8 relating to motor vehicle offenses related to following too closely.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Transportation
11 Section 21–310
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Transportation**

17 21–310.

18 (a) The driver of a motor vehicle may not follow another vehicle more closely than
19 is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of the other vehicle and of the
20 traffic on and the condition of the highway.

21 (b) Subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, whenever conditions
22 permit, the driver of every truck, while traveling on a roadway outside of a business district
23 or a residential district and following any other truck or any other motor vehicle towing
24 another vehicle, shall leave enough space so that an overtaking vehicle may enter and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 occupy the space without danger.

2 (c) Subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, whenever conditions
3 permit, the driver of every motor vehicle towing another vehicle, while traveling on a
4 roadway outside of a business district or a residential district and following any other truck
5 or any other motor vehicle towing another vehicle, shall leave enough space so that an
6 overtaking vehicle may enter and occupy the space without danger.

7 (d) A truck or a motor vehicle towing another vehicle may overtake and pass any
8 other vehicle or combination of vehicles.

9 (e) (1) This subsection does not apply to a funeral procession.

10 (2) A motor vehicle being driven on a roadway outside of a business district
11 or a residential district in a caravan or motorcade, whether or not towing another vehicle,
12 shall be driven to allow enough space between each two vehicles or combination of vehicles
13 so that any other vehicle may enter and occupy the space without danger.

14 **(F) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SECTION, A GROUP**
15 **OF INDIVIDUAL TRUCKS MAY TRAVEL WITHOUT LEAVING ENOUGH SPACE FOR AN**
16 **OVERTAKING VEHICLE TO ENTER AND OCCUPY THE SPACE BETWEEN THEM IF THE**
17 **TRUCKS ARE:**

18 **(1) TRAVELING IN A UNIFIED MANNER AT ELECTRONICALLY**
19 **CONNECTED SPEEDS; AND**

20 **(2) BEING OPERATED IN A REASONABLE AND PRUDENT MANNER**
21 **WITH DUE REGARD FOR THE SPEED OF ANY OTHER VEHICLES AND OF THE TRAFFIC**
22 **ON AND THE CONDITION OF THE HIGHWAY.**

23 **(G) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS**
24 **SECTION.**

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
26 1, 2020.