

Chapter 115

(Senate Bill 199)

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Laws – Overtaking and Passing Bicycles

FOR the purpose of authorizing the driver of a vehicle to drive on the left side of the roadway in a no-passing zone to overtake and pass a bicycle in accordance with a certain provision of law and in a certain manner; clarifying certain language; making a stylistic change; and generally relating to overtaking and passing bicycles.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 21–305

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 21–307

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

21–305.

(a) (1) The driver of a vehicle may not drive to the left of the center of the roadway in overtaking and passing another vehicle going in the same direction unless:

(i) Authorized by this subtitle; and

(ii) The left side of the roadway is clearly visible and is free of approaching traffic for a sufficient distance ahead to permit the overtaking and passing to be completed without interfering with the operation of any other vehicle approaching from the opposite direction or any other vehicle overtaken.

(2) The overtaking vehicle shall return to an authorized lane of travel as soon as practicable and, if the passing movement uses a lane authorized for vehicles approaching from the opposite direction, before coming within 200 feet of any approaching vehicle.

(b) (1) This subsection does not apply on a one-way roadway.

(2) The driver of a vehicle may not drive on the left side of any roadway if:

(i) The vehicle is approaching the crest of a grade or is on a curve in the highway where the driver's view is obstructed for such a distance as to be dangerous should another vehicle approach from the opposite direction;

(ii) The vehicle is crossing or approaching within 100 feet of any intersection or railroad grade crossing; or

(iii) The driver's view is obstructed while approaching within 100 feet of any bridge, viaduct, or tunnel.

21-307.

(a) **(1)** The State Highway Administration may determine those parts of any highway in its jurisdiction where overtaking and passing or driving on the left of the roadway would be especially dangerous and, by appropriate signs or markings on the roadway, may indicate the beginning and end of these zones.

(2) [Where] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, WHERE** the signs or markings are in place and clearly visible to an ordinarily observant individual, every driver of a vehicle shall obey their directions.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, where signs or markings defining a no-passing zone are placed as provided in subsection (a) of this section, a driver may not drive on the left side of the roadway within the no-passing zone.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, where signs or markings defining a no-passing zone are placed as provided in subsection (a) of this section, a driver may not drive on the left side of any pavement striping designed to mark the no-passing zone throughout its length.

(d) The driver of a vehicle may drive [across]:

(1) **ACROSS** the left side of the roadway in a no-passing zone while making a left turn, but only if it is safe to do so; **AND**

(2) **IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 21-305 OF THIS SUBTITLE, ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ROADWAY IN A NO-PASSING ZONE TO MAKE THE MINIMUM ADJUSTMENT NECESSARY TO OVERTAKE AND PASS AT A SAFE DISTANCE A BICYCLE TRAVELING IN THE SAME DIRECTION WHILE YIELDING TO THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE BICYCLE AND ONCOMING TRAFFIC.**

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

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.