SENATE BILL 416

R5   2lr3004
HB 964/21 – ENT   CF HB 222

By: **Senator Edwards**
Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2022
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1   AN ACT concerning

2   **Vehicle Laws – Driving in Right–Hand Lanes – Interstate Highways in Rural**
3   **Areas**

4   FOR the purpose of requiring the driver of a vehicle traveling slower than the general speed
5   of traffic on certain interstate highways to drive the vehicle in the right–hand lanes
6   under certain circumstances; requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to include
7   information about the requirement in the State's driver education curriculum and to
8   inform drivers of the requirement through certain signage; and generally relating to
9   driving in the right–hand lanes of a highway.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11   Article – Transportation
12   Section 8–101(a) and (j) and 8–507(a)(1) and (3)
13   Annotated Code of Maryland
14   (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16   Article – Transportation
17   Section 21–301(b)
18   Annotated Code of Maryland
19   (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

22   **Article – Transportation**

23 8–101.

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

EXPLANATION: **Capitals indicate matter added to existing law.**
        [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

1   (j)   "Interstate highway" means a State highway that is part of the national
2 interstate system in this State, as designated by the Administration and approved by the
3 United States Secretary of Transportation under Title 23 of the United States Code.

4 8–507.

5   (a)   (1)   In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

6   (3)   "Urban area" means an area with boundaries fixed by the
7 Administration that includes and is adjacent to a municipality or other urban place having
8 a population of at least 5,000, as determined by the latest federal census.

9 21–301.

10   (b)   **(1)**   On every roadway, except while overtaking and passing another vehicle
11 going in the same direction or when preparing for a lawful left turn, any vehicle going 10
12 miles per hour or more below the applicable maximum speed limit or, if any existing
13 conditions reasonably require a speed below that of the applicable maximum, at less than
14 the normal speed of traffic under these conditions, shall be driven in the right–hand lane
15 then available for traffic or as close as practicable to the right–hand curb or edge of the
16 roadway.

17   **(2)   (I)   1.   IN THIS PARAGRAPH THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE**
18 THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

19   **2.   "INTERSTATE HIGHWAY" HAS THE MEANING STATED**
20 IN § 8–101(J) OF THIS ARTICLE.

21   **3.   "RURAL AREA" MEANS AN AREA OUTSIDE THE FIXED**
22 BOUNDARIES OF AN URBAN AREA AS DEFINED UNDER § 8–507 OF THIS ARTICLE.

23   **(II)   ON AN INTERSTATE HIGHWAY LOCATED IN A RURAL AREA, A**
24 DRIVER OF A VEHICLE TRAVELING SLOWER THAN THE GENERAL SPEED OF TRAFFIC,
25 IF PRACTICABLE AS DETERMINED BY THE DRIVER, SHALL DRIVE IN THE
26 RIGHT–HAND LANE OR LANES.

27   **(III)   THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL INCLUDE THE REQUIREMENT**
28 UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH IN THE STATE'S DRIVER
29 EDUCATION CURRICULUM.

30   **(IV)   THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION SHALL INFORM**
31 DRIVERS OF THE REQUIREMENT UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH:

32   **1.   BY PLACING AND MAINTAINING SIGNS AT REGULAR**
33 INTERVALS ON APPROPRIATE HIGHWAYS; AND

1   **2.** **THROUGH THE DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGN SYSTEM**
2 **LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE STATE.**

3   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,
4 2023, the Motor Vehicle Administration and the State Highway Administration shall report
5 jointly to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Environment and
6 Transportation Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article,
7 on the efforts made to provide driver education and notice throughout the State required
8 under this Act.

9   SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2022.