

# HOUSE BILL 737

R5

4lr0978

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By: **Delegates J. Long, Crosby, Patterson, and Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 2, 2024

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

### 2 **Vehicle Laws – Slow Moving Vehicles – Right-Hand Lane**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing a certain provision of law that applies the requirement that  
4 slow moving vehicles drive in the right-hand lane or lanes only to certain highways  
5 in certain geographic areas; altering the standards under which the State Highway  
6 Administration is required to inform drivers of the requirement; and generally  
7 relating to slow moving vehicles.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Transportation  
10 Section 21–301(b)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

### 15 **Article – Transportation**

16 21–301.

17 (b) (1) On every roadway, except while overtaking and passing another vehicle  
18 going in the same direction or when preparing for a lawful left turn, any vehicle going 10  
19 miles per hour or more below the applicable maximum speed limit or, if any existing  
20 conditions reasonably require a speed below that of the applicable maximum, at less than

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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.



1 the normal speed of traffic under these conditions, shall be driven in the right-hand lane  
2 then available for traffic or as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the  
3 roadway.

4 (2) (i) 1. [In this paragraph the following words have the meanings  
5 indicated.

6 2. “Interstate highway” has the meaning stated in § 8–101(j)  
7 of this article.

8 3. “Rural area” means an area outside the fixed boundaries  
9 of an urban area as defined under § 8–507 of this article.

10 (ii) 1. On an interstate highway located in a rural area, a] A  
11 driver of a vehicle traveling slower than the general speed of traffic, if practicable as  
12 determined by the driver, shall drive in the right-hand lane or lanes.

13 2. A. This paragraph establishes the policy of the State  
14 and guidance with respect to the rules of the road.

15 B. A person may not be issued a citation for a violation of this  
16 paragraph.

17 [(iii)] (II) The Administration shall include the requirement under  
18 subparagraph [(ii)] (I) of this paragraph in the State’s driver education curriculum.

19 [(iv)] (III) The State Highway Administration shall inform drivers of  
20 the requirement under subparagraph [(ii)] (I) of this paragraph:

21 1. ~~By~~ **AT THE REQUEST OF A LOCAL JURISDICTION OR**  
22 **ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE, BY** placing and maintaining, **IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION,** signs  
23 at regular intervals on appropriate **STATE** highways; and

24 2. Through the dynamic message sign system located  
25 throughout the State, **TO THE EXTENT AUTHORIZED BY FEDERAL LAW AND**  
26 **REGULATIONS.**

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
28 October 1, 2024.