
By: Delegate Franchot

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 1996
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Unsafe Tires**

3 FOR the purpose of altering certain criteria used to determine the safety of a tire; making
4 a technical change; and generally relating to the requirements for determining an
5 unsafe tire.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article - Transportation
8 Section 22-405.5
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

13 **Article - Transportation**

14 22-405.5.

15 (a) A person may not sell or offer for sale, at the point of final retail sale to the
16 consumer, an unsafe tire, for use on a highway, that does not meet or exceed the
17 requirements set forth in subsection (b) of this section or in regulations promulgated
18 under § 22-405(c) of this [article] SUBTITLE.

19 (b) A tire shall be considered unsafe if it:

20 (1) Has tread wear indicators and the tire is worn to the point that the tread
21 wear indicators are flush with the tread [at any place on the tire] IN ANY GROOVE AT
22 THREE LOCATIONS SPACED APPROXIMATELY EQUALLY AROUND THE OUTSIDE OF
23 THE TIRE;

24 (2) Does not have tread wear indicators and the tire is worn so that less than
25 2/32 of an inch tread remains when measured in any groove at three locations spaced
26 approximately equally around the outside of the tire; provided that motorcycle tires shall
27 be allowed to be worn down to 1/32 of an inch, if measured under this paragraph;

28 (3) Has a worn spot that exposes the cord through the tread;

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1 (4) Has tread cuts, snags, or sidewall cracks in any direction which are deep
2 enough to expose body cords;

3 (5) Has visible bumps, bulges, or knots indicating partial failure or
4 separation of the tire structure;

5 (6) Has unrepaired fabric breaks or the sidewall has damaged body cords;

6 (7) Has been regrooved or recut except as authorized in § 22-405.1; or

7 (8) Is marked:

8 (i) For farm use only;

9 (ii) For off-highway use only; or

10 (iii) For racing use only.

11 (c) A tire failing to meet the requirements of subsection (b) of this section may be
12 sold for off-highway use only if the tire has permanently inscribed on its sidewall the
13 letters "OH" at least 3/4 of an inch in height.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 1996.