
By: Senator Boozer

Requested: November 15, 1996

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 1997

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Emergency Vehicles - Studded Snow Tires**

3 FOR the purpose of exempting emergency vehicles during a certain period each year
4 from the prohibition against the use of studded tires; clarifying language; making
5 stylistic changes; and generally relating to the use of studded tires on emergency
6 vehicles.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article - Transportation
9 Section 11-118
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article - Transportation
14 Section 22-405.2
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

19 **Article - Transportation**

20 11-118.

21 "Emergency vehicle" means any of the following vehicles that are designated by the
22 Administration as entitled to the exemptions and privileges set forth in the Maryland
23 Vehicle Law for emergency vehicles:

24 (1) Vehicles of federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies;

25 (2) Vehicles of volunteer fire companies, rescue squads, fire departments,
26 the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, and the Maryland Fire
27 and Rescue Institute;

28 (3) State vehicles used in response to oil or hazardous materials spills;

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1 (4) State vehicles designated for emergency use by the Commissioner of
 2 Correction;

3 (5) Ambulances; and

4 (6) Special vehicles funded or provided by federal, State, or local
 5 government and used for emergency or rescue purposes in this State.

6 22-405.2.

7 (a) A person may not drive on any highway any motor vehicle, trailer, or
 8 semitrailer having any metal tire in contact with the roadway.

9 (b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, a tire on a vehicle
 10 driven on a highway may not have on its periphery any block, stud, flange, cleat, or spike
 11 or any other protuberance of any material, other than rubber, that projects beyond the
 12 tread of the traction surface of the tire, except that A PERSON MAY:

13 [(1)] (I) [It is permissible to use] USE farm machinery with tires having
 14 protuberances that will not injure the highway;

15 [(2)] (II) [It is permissible to use] USE tire chains of reasonable
 16 proportions on any vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice, or other
 17 conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid; AND

18 [(3)] (III) [It is permissible for] IN THE CASE OF a vehicle not registered or
 19 required to be registered in this State [to], use tires as described in this subsection[;
 20 and].

21 [(4)] (2) Except in Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington
 22 Counties, a person may not sell or offer for sale in this State any tire which is not
 23 permitted to be used in this State under this subsection.

24 (c) (1) From November 1 through March 31, owners of vehicles registered in
 25 Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, or Washington County are exempt from the
 26 prohibition of the use of tires described in subsection (b) of this section.

27 (2) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION PROHIBITS, DURING THE PERIOD FROM
 28 NOVEMBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31 OF EACH YEAR, THE USE ON AN EMERGENCY
 29 VEHICLE OF STUDDED SNOW TIRES DESIGNED TO PROVIDE ENHANCED TRACTION
 30 ON HIGHWAYS COVERED WITH SNOW OR ICE.

31 (d) The State Highway Administration and local authorities in their respective
 32 jurisdictions, in their discretion, may issue special permits authorizing the operation on a
 33 highway of traction engines or tractors having movable tracks with transverse corrugations
 34 on the periphery of the movable tracks or farm tractors or other farm machinery, the
 35 operation of which on a highway otherwise would be prohibited under this section.

36 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
 37 October 1, 1997.