

HOUSE BILL 570

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HB 835/97 - ECM

1998 Regular Session  
8lr0154

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By: **Delegates Kach, V. Mitchell, Love, and McClenahan**  
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 1998  
Assigned to: Economic Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 26, 1998

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Uninsured Motorists - Waiver of Right to Noneconomic**  
3 **Damages**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing that an individual driving a motor vehicle that is not  
5 covered by insurance is considered to have waived the right to recover  
6 noneconomic loss damages under certain circumstances; exempting certain  
7 individuals from the waiver under certain circumstances; creating a rebuttable  
8 presumption that an individual knows or has reason to know that the motor  
9 vehicle is not covered by insurance under certain circumstances; defining a  
10 certain term; making stylistic changes; making technical changes; providing for  
11 the termination of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to  
12 operating a motor vehicle that does not have insurance coverage.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article - Transportation  
15 Section 17-107  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

20 **Article - Transportation**

21 17-107.

22 (a) [A person] AN INDIVIDUAL who knows or has reason to know that a motor  
23 vehicle is not covered by the required security may not:

1 (1) Drive the vehicle; or

2 (2) If [he] THE INDIVIDUAL is an owner of the vehicle, knowingly permit  
3 another [person] INDIVIDUAL to drive it.

4 (b) (1) In [any] A prosecution under subsection (a) of this section the  
5 introduction of the official records of the [Motor Vehicle] Administration showing the  
6 absence of a record that the vehicle is covered by the security required under § 17-104  
7 of this subtitle shall be prima facie evidence that [a person] AN INDIVIDUAL knows or  
8 has reason to know that a motor vehicle is not covered by the required security.

9 (2) The introduction of evidence of the records of the Administration may  
10 not limit the introduction of other evidence bearing upon whether the vehicle was  
11 covered by the required security.

12 (c) An owner or lessee of [any] A motor vehicle registered under Title 13 of  
13 this article may not raise the defense of sovereign or governmental immunity as  
14 described under § 5-524 of the Courts [and Judicial Proceedings] Article.

15 (D) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "NONECONOMIC DAMAGES" MEANS DAMAGES  
16 FOR NONPECUNIARY LOSS, INCLUDING PAIN, SUFFERING, INCONVENIENCE, AND  
17 PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT.

18 (2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH ~~(2)~~ (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN  
19 INDIVIDUAL WHO IS INJURED IN A VEHICULAR ACCIDENT WHILE OPERATING A  
20 MOTOR VEHICLE IN VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION AND WHO IS  
21 THE OWNER AND DRIVER OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE WAIVED  
22 THE RIGHT TO RECOVER FOR NONECONOMIC LOSS IN AN ACTION AGAINST AN  
23 INDIVIDUAL OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE THAT IS COVERED BY THE REQUIRED  
24 SECURITY.

25 ~~(2)~~ (3) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:

26 (I) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DOES NOT KNOW OR HAVE REASON TO  
27 KNOW THAT THE MOTOR VEHICLE IS NOT COVERED BY THE REQUIRED SECURITY; OR

28 (II) AN INDIVIDUAL WHOSE INJURIES ARE CAUSED BY AN  
29 INDIVIDUAL WHO, IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACCIDENT, IS:

30 1. CONVICTED OF OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE IN  
31 VIOLATION OF § 21-902 OF THIS ARTICLE;

32 2. CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 27, § 388A OF  
33 THE CODE;

34 3. CONVICTED OF VEHICULAR ASSAULT;

35 4. CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 27, § 388B OF  
36 THE CODE; ~~OR~~

1 5. CONVICTED OF RECKLESS DRIVING UNDER § 21-901.1(A)  
 2 OF THIS ARTICLE; OR

3 6. FOUND TO HAVE BEEN DRIVING IN A DELIBERATELY  
 4 DISCOURTEOUS, INTOLERANT, AND IMPATIENT MANNER THAT EVIDENCES A  
 5 PATTERN OF DANGEROUS CONDUCT THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE LIKELIHOOD OF A  
 6 COLLISION OR NECESSITATED EVASIVE ACTION BY ANOTHER DRIVER OF A MOTOR  
 7 VEHICLE TO AVOID A COLLISION.

8 (3) (4) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION, THERE IS A REBUTTABLE  
 9 PRESUMPTION THAT AN INDIVIDUAL KNOWS ~~OR HAS REASON TO KNOW~~ THAT A  
 10 MOTOR VEHICLE IS NOT COVERED BY THE REQUIRED SECURITY IF THE SECURITY  
 11 PREVIOUSLY IN EFFECT HAD LAPSED OR TERMINATED AND HAD BEEN INEFFECTIVE  
 12 FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST 60 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF NOTIFICATION BY THE  
 13 MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION ABOUT THE LAPSE OR TERMINATION AND ABOUT  
 14 SPECIFIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE LAPSE OR TERMINATION UNDER THIS  
 15 SUBSECTION.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the provisions of §  
 17 17-107(d)(2)(ii)6 of the Transportation Article, as enacted by this Act, shall take effect  
 18 October 1, 1998. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of  
 19 September 30, 1999, with no further action required by the General Assembly, §  
 20 17-107(d)(2)(ii)6 of the Transportation Article, as enacted by this Act, shall be  
 21 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

22 SECTION 2-3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 2 of  
 23 this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 1998. It shall remain effective for a  
 24 period of 5 years and, at the end of September 30, 2003, with no further action  
 25 required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force  
 26 and effect.