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By: **Delegates Cadden, W. Baker, and Walkup**  
Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1998  
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Vehicle Laws - Railroad Grade Crossings - Exemption from Stopping**  
3                                   **Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of providing that certain requirements governing the stopping of  
5 vehicles at railroad grade crossings do not apply at a railroad grade crossing at  
6 which a traffic control device indicates that vehicles need not stop; and generally  
7 relating to vehicles at railroad grade crossings.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article - Transportation  
10 Section 21-703  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

15                                   **Article - Transportation**

16 21-703.

17 (a) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, this section applies to:

- 18 (1) Every motor vehicle carrying a passenger for hire;
- 19 (2) Every school vehicle carrying any passenger;
- 20 (3) Every bus that is owned or operated by a church and carrying any  
21 passenger;
- 22 (4) Every vehicle carrying as cargo a flammable liquid or an explosive;  
23 and
- 24 (5) Every vehicle carrying hazardous materials of a type and quantity  
25 requiring placarding under federal hazardous materials regulations.

1 (b) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section  
2 approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver shall stop within 50 feet but not less  
3 than 15 feet from the nearest rail in the crossing.

4 (c) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section  
5 approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver while stopped, shall listen and look in  
6 both directions along the track for any approaching or passing railroad train and for  
7 any signals indicating the approach or passage of a railroad train.

8 (d) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section  
9 approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver may not proceed until he can do so  
10 safely.

11 (e) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section  
12 approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver may proceed only in that gear of the  
13 vehicle in which it will be unnecessary to shift gears manually while passing through  
14 the crossing.

15 (f) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section  
16 approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver may not shift gears manually while  
17 passing over any track of the railroad.

18 (g) (1) This section does not apply to the vehicles described in subsection  
19 (a)(1), (4), and (5) of this section, at any railroad grade crossing in a business district  
20 or residential district.

21 (2) This section does not apply to school buses and church buses, as  
22 described in subsection (a)(2) and (3) of this section, at locations within Baltimore  
23 City where complying with the provision of this section would conflict with the  
24 existing traffic signal indications.

25 (3) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY AT ANY RAILROAD GRADE CROSSING  
26 AT WHICH A TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE INDICATES THAT VEHICLES ARE NOT  
27 REQUIRED TO STOP.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
29 October 1, 1998.