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By: **Delegate Franchot**  
Introduced and read first time: February 20, 1998  
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Unsafe Tires**

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

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 1997 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  
21 tread wear indicators are flush with the tread [at any place on the tire] IN ANY  
22 GROOVE AT THREE LOCATIONS SPACED APPROXIMATELY EQUALLY AROUND THE  
23 OUTSIDE OF THE TIRE;

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

- 1           (3)     Has a worn spot that exposes the cord through the tread;
- 2           (4)     Has tread cuts, snags, or sidewall cracks in any direction which are  
3 deep enough to expose body cords;
- 4           (5)     Has visible bumps, bulges, or knots indicating partial failure or  
5 separation of the tire structure;
- 6           (6)     Has unrepaired fabric breaks or the sidewall has damaged body  
7 cords;
- 8           (7)     Has been regrooved or recut except as authorized in § 22-405.1; or
- 9           (8)     Is marked:
- 10           (i)     For farm use only;
- 11           (ii)    For off-highway use only; or
- 12           (iii)   For racing use only.
- 13   (c)     A tire failing to meet the requirements of subsection (b) of this section may  
14 be sold for off-highway use only if the tire has permanently inscribed on its sidewall  
15 the letters "OH" at least 3/4 of an inch in height.

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