
By: **Delegate K. Kelly**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1999

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Driving in the Left Lane - Restrictions**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that on a roadway that has two or more lanes for traffic
4 moving in the same direction a vehicle may not be driven in the far left lane
5 unless the vehicle is overtaking another vehicle; and generally relating to
6 driving on divided roadways.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article - Transportation
9 Section 21-309
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

14 **Article - Transportation**

15 21-309.

16 (a) On any roadway that is divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for
17 vehicular traffic, the following rules, in addition to any others consistent with them,
18 apply.

19 (b) A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as practicable entirely within a single
20 lane and may not be moved from that lane or moved from a shoulder or bikeway into
21 a lane until the driver has determined that it is safe to do so.

22 (c) On a roadway that is divided into three lanes and that provides for
23 two-way movement of traffic, a vehicle may not be driven in the center lane except:

24 (1) While overtaking and passing another vehicle going in the same
25 direction and while the center lane is clear of traffic within a safe distance;

26 (2) In preparing to make a left turn; or

1 (3) When the center lane is allocated exclusively to traffic moving in the
2 same direction that the vehicle is going and the allocation is designated by a traffic
3 control device.

4 (d) The driver of a vehicle shall obey the directions of each traffic control
5 device that directs specified traffic to use a designated lane or that designates those
6 lanes to be used by traffic moving in a particular direction, regardless of the center of
7 the roadway.

8 (e) The driver of a vehicle shall obey the directions of each traffic control
9 device that prohibits changing lanes on sections of a roadway.

10 (f) On a roadway that has two or more lanes for traffic moving in the same
11 direction, the driver of any truck, truck tractor, trailer, or bus shall obey the directions
12 of each traffic control device that requires the vehicle to be driven in a certain lane.

13 (g) On a roadway along which a two-way left turn lane has been provided
14 through traffic control devices, vehicles may not enter that lane except when
15 preparing for or making a left turn from or into the roadway or when preparing for or
16 making a U-turn, and may enter only if the lane is clear of an opposing movement.

17 (h) A vehicle shall be driven within a lane described under subsection (g) of
18 this section the shortest distance practicable prior to making a left turn or U-turn or
19 after making a left turn.

20 (i) On roadways along which a two-way left turn lane has been placed, left
21 turns shall be made only from within such lane.

22 (J) ON A ROADWAY THAT HAS TWO OR MORE LANES FOR TRAFFIC MOVING IN
23 THE SAME DIRECTION A VEHICLE MAY NOT BE DRIVEN IN THE FAR LEFT LANE
24 UNLESS THE VEHICLE IS OVERTAKING ANOTHER VEHICLE AS PROVIDED IN § 21-303
25 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 1999.