

HOUSE BILL 1348

R5

8lr1076

By: **Delegates Stein, Carr, Glenn, and Hucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2008

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - "Road Rage" Offenses**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the motor vehicle offense of maliciously violating
4 certain provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law; establishing certain maximum
5 penalties for a conviction for the offense; and generally relating to certain
6 vehicle law offenses committed with malice.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article - Transportation
9 Section 14-104(b), 21-303(c) and (e), 21-309(b), 21-310, 21-604(e), 21-804(a),
10 21-1102, and 27-101(a) and (b)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

13 BY adding to
14 Article - Transportation
15 Section 21-901.3 and 27-101(bb)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 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 14-104.

22 (b) A person may not drop or throw stones or other objects at any vehicle or
23 at occupants of a vehicle.

24 21-303.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle that is going in the
2 same direction, until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle, may not drive any part of
3 his vehicle directly in front of the overtaken vehicle.

4 (e) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver
5 of an overtaken vehicle, until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle, may not
6 increase the speed of his vehicle.

7 21-309.

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

11 21-310.

12 (a) The driver of a motor vehicle may not follow another vehicle more closely
13 than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of the other vehicle
14 and of the traffic on and the condition of the highway.

15 (b) Subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, whenever
16 conditions permit, the driver of every truck, while traveling on a roadway outside of a
17 business district or a residential district and following any other truck or any other
18 motor vehicle towing another vehicle, shall leave enough space so that an overtaking
19 vehicle may enter and occupy the space without danger.

20 (c) Subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, whenever
21 conditions permit, the driver of every motor vehicle towing another vehicle, while
22 traveling on a roadway outside of a business district or a residential district and
23 following any other truck or any other motor vehicle towing another vehicle, shall
24 leave enough space so that an overtaking vehicle may enter and occupy the space
25 without danger.

26 (d) A truck or a motor vehicle towing another vehicle may overtake and pass
27 any other vehicle or combination of vehicles.

28 (e) (1) This subsection does not apply to a funeral procession.

29 (2) A motor vehicle being driven on a roadway outside of a business
30 district or a residential district in a caravan or motorcade, whether or not towing
31 another vehicle, shall be driven to allow enough space between each two vehicles or
32 combination of vehicles so that any other vehicle may enter and occupy the space
33 without danger.

34 21-604.

1 (e) If there is an opportunity to signal, a person may not stop or suddenly
2 decrease the speed of a vehicle until he gives an appropriate signal in the manner
3 required by this subtitle to the driver of any other vehicle immediately to the rear.

4 21-804.

5 (a) Unless reduced speed is necessary for the safe operation of the vehicle or
6 otherwise is in compliance with law, a person may not willfully drive a motor vehicle
7 at such a slow speed as to impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic.

8 **21-901.3.**

9 **A PERSON MAY NOT VIOLATE WITH MALICE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING**
10 **PROVISIONS OF THE MARYLAND VEHICLE LAW:**

11 (1) **§ 21-303(C) OR (E) OF THIS TITLE (“OVERTAKING AND**
12 **PASSING VEHICLES”);**

13 (2) **§ 21-309(B) OF THIS TITLE (“DRIVING IN SINGLE LANE**
14 **REQUIRED”);**

15 (3) **§ 21-310 OF THIS TITLE (“FOLLOWING TOO CLOSELY”);**

16 (4) **§ 21-604(E) OF THIS TITLE (“STOPPING OR DECREASING**
17 **SPEED”);**

18 (5) **§ 21-804(A) OF THIS TITLE (“SLOW SPEED IMPEDING TRAFFIC**
19 **PROHIBITED”); OR**

20 (6) **§ 21-1102 OF THIS TITLE (“LIMITATIONS ON BACKING”).**

21 21-1102.

22 (a) The driver of a vehicle may not back it unless the movement can be made
23 safely and without interfering with other traffic.

24 (b) The driver of a vehicle may not back it on any shoulder or roadway of any
25 controlled access highway.

26 27-101.

27 (a) It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of the
28 Maryland Vehicle Law unless the violation:

29 (1) Is declared to be a felony by the Maryland Vehicle Law or by any
30 other law of this State; or

1 (2) Is punishable by a civil penalty under the applicable provision of
2 the Maryland Vehicle Law.

3 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person convicted of a
4 misdemeanor for the violation of any of the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law is
5 subject to a fine of not more than \$500.

6 **(BB) ANY PERSON WHO IS CONVICTED OF VIOLATING § 21-901.3 OF THIS**
7 **ARTICLE (“OFFENSES COMMITTED WITH MALICE”) IS SUBJECT TO:**

8 **(1) A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$2,000; OR**

9 **(2) IF THE VIOLATION CONTRIBUTES TO AN ACCIDENT, A FINE OF**
10 **NOT MORE THAN \$2,000 OR IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 2 MONTHS OR**
11 **BOTH.**

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 October 1, 2008.