

SENATE BILL 294

R5

0lr2095
CF HB 236

By: **Senator Glassman**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2010

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Distracted Driving – Prohibition**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from driving a motor vehicle in an inattentive
4 manner resulting in the unsafe operation of the motor vehicle when the
5 inattention is caused by the person engaging in a certain preoccupying activity;
6 providing that a violation of this Act is not a moving violation for the purpose of
7 assessing certain points; authorizing a police officer to enforce this Act only as a
8 secondary offense; defining certain terms; and generally relating to distracted
9 driving.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Transportation
12 Section 21–901.3
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

16 Article – Transportation
17 Section 27–101(a) and (b)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Transportation**

23 **21–901.3.**

24 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PREOCCUPYING ACTIVITY” INCLUDES:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (1) READING OR WRITING;
- 2 (2) PERFORMING PERSONAL GROOMING;
- 3 (3) USING A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE, AS DEFINED IN
4 § 21-1124 OF THIS TITLE;
- 5 (4) ADJUSTING CARGO;
- 6 (5) EATING, DRINKING, OR SMOKING;
- 7 (6) PHYSICALLY ATTENDING TO ANOTHER PASSENGER; AND
- 8 (7) OPERATING OR OBSERVING A VIDEO DISPLAY.

9 (B) A PERSON IS GUILTY OF DISTRACTED DRIVING IF THE PERSON
10 DRIVES A MOTOR VEHICLE IN AN INATTENTIVE MANNER RESULTING IN THE
11 UNSAFE OPERATION OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE WHEN THE INATTENTION IS
12 CAUSED BY THE PERSON ENGAGING IN A PREOCCUPYING ACTIVITY.

13 (C) A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION IS NOT A MOVING VIOLATION FOR
14 THE PURPOSE OF ASSESSING POINTS UNDER § 16-402 OF THIS ARTICLE.

15 (D) A POLICE OFFICER MAY ENFORCE THIS SECTION ONLY AS A
16 SECONDARY ACTION WHEN THE POLICE OFFICER DETAINS A DRIVER FOR A
17 SUSPECTED VIOLATION OF ANOTHER PROVISION OF THE CODE.

18 27-101.

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

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

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

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

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 2010.