

Chapter 66

(Senate Bill 621)

AN ACT concerning

Vehicles Laws – Emergency Vehicles – Motorcades and Escorts

FOR the purpose of authorizing the driver of certain emergency vehicles to exercise certain privileges while performing certain motorcade or escort duties; authorizing certain emergency vehicles to travel through any jurisdiction in the State as necessary to perform and return from motorcade or escort duty; requiring a jurisdiction that employs a driver who travels through another jurisdiction while performing or returning from motorcade or escort duty to provide certain notice to the other jurisdiction; prohibiting the driver of an emergency vehicle from using certain equipment while returning from motorcade or escort duty; and generally relating to the performance of motorcade or escort duty by an emergency vehicle.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 11–118

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 21–106

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – Transportation

11–118.

“Emergency vehicle” means any of the following vehicles that are designated by the Administration as entitled to the exemptions and privileges set forth in the Maryland Vehicle Law for emergency vehicles:

- (1) Vehicles of federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies;

(2) Vehicles of volunteer fire companies, rescue squads, fire departments, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, and the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute;

(3) State vehicles used in response to oil or hazardous materials spills;

(4) State vehicles designated for emergency use by the Commissioner of Correction;

(5) Ambulances; and

(6) Special vehicles funded or provided by federal, State, or local government and used for emergency or rescue purposes in this State.

21-106.

(a) Subject to the conditions stated in this section[, the]:

(1) THE driver of an emergency vehicle registered in any state may exercise the privileges set forth in this section while:

[(1)] **(I)** Responding to an emergency call;

[(2)] **(II)** Pursuing a violator or suspected violator of the law; or

[(3)] **(III)** Responding to, but not while returning from, a fire alarm[.];

AND

(2) THE DRIVER OF AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE STATE OR A LOCAL JURISDICTION IN THE STATE MAY EXERCISE THE PRIVILEGES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION WHILE PERFORMING MOTORCADE OR ESCORT DUTY IF THE MOTORCADE OR ESCORT DUTY INVOLVES:

(I) HOMELAND SECURITY;

(II) A FUNERAL;

(III) A DIGNITARY; OR

(IV) FACILITATING THE SAFE MOVEMENT OF VEHICLES OR PEDESTRIANS THAT ARE OR WILL BE NEAR THE MOTORCADE OR ESCORT.

(b) Under the circumstances stated in subsection (a) of this section, the driver of an emergency vehicle may:

- (1) Park or stand without regard to the other provisions of this title;
- (2) Pass a red or stop signal, a stop sign, or a yield sign, but only after slowing down as necessary for safety;
- (3) Exceed any maximum speed limit, but only so long as the driver does not endanger life or property; [and]
- (4) Disregard any traffic control device or regulation governing direction of movement or turning in a specified direction; **AND**

(5) TRAVEL THROUGH ANY LOCAL JURISDICTION IN THE STATE AS NECESSARY TO PERFORM AND RETURN FROM MOTORCADE OR ESCORT DUTY.

(c) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the privileges set forth in this section apply only while the emergency vehicle is using audible and visual signals that meet the requirements of § 22–218 of this article, except that an emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle need not be equipped with or display the visual signals.

(2) The privileges set forth in subsection (b)(1) of this section apply only while the emergency vehicle is using visual signals that meet the requirements of § 22–218 of this article.

(3) (i) The driver of an emergency vehicle may not use flashing lights or a bell, siren, or exhaust whistle while returning from an emergency call [or fire], **FIRE alarm, OR MOTORCADE OR ESCORT**, except that fire apparatus carrying standing firemen may use flashing lights that are visible only to the rear.

(ii) The driver of an emergency vehicle, while parking or backing the emergency vehicle, may use flashing lights within 100 feet of the entrance ramp to a:

1. Fire station; or
2. Rescue station.

(4) BEFORE EXERCISING THE PRIVILEGES SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (B)(5) OF THIS SECTION, THE JURISDICTION THAT EMPLOYS THE DRIVER OF A MOTORCADE OR ESCORT SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE MOTORCADE OR ESCORT TO ANY JURISDICTION THAT THE DRIVER WILL ENTER WHILE PERFORMING OR RETURNING FROM THE MOTORCADE OR ESCORT DUTY.

(d) This section does not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor, April 9, 2013.