

HOUSE BILL 1598

R5

6lr2928
CF SB 1120

By: **Delegates Parrott, Flanagan, Kittleman, and A. Miller**

Introduced and read first time: February 25, 2016

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Railroad Grade Crossings – Exempt Highway–Rail Grade Crossing Plaque**

3 FOR the purpose of exempting certain vehicles from the requirement to stop at certain
4 railroad grade crossings if the railroad grade crossing has an exempt highway–rail
5 grade crossing plaque; and generally relating to an exempt highway–rail grade
6 crossing plaque at railroad grade crossings.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – Transportation

9 Section 21–703

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Transportation**

15 21–703.

16 (a) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, this section applies to:

17 (1) Every motor vehicle carrying a passenger for hire;

18 (2) Every school vehicle carrying any passenger;

19 (3) Every bus that is owned or operated by a church and carrying any
20 passenger;

21 (4) Every vehicle carrying as cargo a flammable liquid or an explosive; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (5) Every vehicle carrying hazardous materials of a type and quantity
2 requiring placarding under federal hazardous materials regulations.

3 (b) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section
4 approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver shall stop within 50 feet but not less than
5 15 feet from the nearest rail in the crossing.

6 (c) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section
7 approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver, while stopped, shall listen and look in both
8 directions along the track for any approaching or passing railroad train and for any signals
9 indicating the approach or passage of a railroad train.

10 (d) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section
11 approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver may not proceed until he can do so safely.

12 (e) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section
13 approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver may proceed only in that gear of the vehicle
14 in which it will be unnecessary to shift gears manually while passing through the crossing.

15 (f) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section
16 approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver may not shift gears manually while passing
17 over any track of the railroad.

18 (g) (1) This section does not apply to the vehicles described in subsection (a)(1),
19 (4), and (5) of this section, at any railroad grade crossing in a business district or residential
20 district.

21 (2) This section does not apply to school buses and church buses, as
22 described in subsection (a)(2) and (3) of this section, at locations within Baltimore City
23 where complying with the provision of this section would conflict with the existing traffic
24 signal indications.

25 **(3) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE VEHICLES DESCRIBED IN**
26 **SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, AT ANY RAILROAD GRADE CROSSING WITH AN**
27 **EXEMPT HIGHWAY–RAIL GRADE CROSSING PLAQUE AS DESCRIBED IN THE FEDERAL**
28 **MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.**

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 2016.