

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 662 (Delegate Beidle)  
Environment and Transportation

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**Emergency Vehicles - Blood, Organ, or Tissue Delivery Vehicles**

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This bill defines “blood, organ, or tissue delivery vehicle” and includes the term within the definition of “emergency vehicle.” The bill also authorizes the driver of such vehicles to exercise certain privileges while transporting human blood, organs, or tissue or medical personnel in specified circumstances. Finally, the bill authorizes blood, organ, or tissue delivery vehicles to be equipped with or display red, white, or red and white lights or signal devices.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect local government operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The bill defines “blood, organ, or tissue delivery vehicle” as a vehicle that is used and maintained to transport human blood, blood products, organs, or tissue on an emergency basis.

The driver of an emergency vehicle registered in any state may exercise specified privileges set forth in the Transportation Article while (1) transporting on an emergency basis a human organ or human tissue for transplantation or human blood for a transfusion or (2) transporting medical personnel on an emergency basis for the purpose of performing human organ or tissue harvesting or transplantation or a human blood transfusion.

**Current Law:** “Emergency vehicle” includes any specified vehicle designated by the Motor Vehicle Administration as entitled to the exemptions and privileges set forth in the Maryland Vehicle Law for emergency vehicles. The driver of an emergency vehicle registered in any state may exercise specified privileges while (1) responding to an emergency call; (2) pursuing a violator or suspected violator of the law; or (3) responding to, but not while returning from, a fire alarm.

In addition, the driver of an emergency vehicle registered in Maryland or a local jurisdiction of Maryland may exercise specified privileges while performing motorcade or escort duty if the motorcade or escort duty involves (1) homeland security; (2) a funeral; (3) a dignitary; or (4) facilitating the safe movement of vehicles or pedestrians that are or will be near the motorcade or escort.

Subject to specified conditions, the driver of an emergency vehicle may:

- park or stand without regard to the other provisions of Title 21 of the Transportation Article;
- pass a red or stop signal, a stop sign, or a yield sign (but only after slowing down as necessary for safety);
- exceed any maximum speed limit (but only so long as the driver does not endanger life or property);
- disregard any traffic control device or regulation governing direction of movement or turning in a specified direction; and
- travel through any local jurisdiction in the State, as necessary, to perform and return from motorcade or escort duty.

A driver of an emergency vehicle generally must use specified audible and visual signals when exercising the privileges granted to emergency vehicles.

The privileges afforded to a driver of an emergency vehicle do not relieve the driver from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, University of Maryland Medical System, Department of State Police, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 24, 2016  
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