

# HOUSE BILL 237

R5

7lr1491

---

By: **Delegates Carr, Korman, Robinson, and Tarlau**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2017

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Intersections – Prohibited Acts**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting vehicle traffic from entering certain intersections against  
4 certain traffic signals if the vehicle is unable to safely and completely proceed  
5 through the intersection; prohibiting the driver of a vehicle approaching a stop sign  
6 at an intersecting highway from crossing the intersecting highway if the driver is  
7 unable to safely and completely proceed through the intersection; making  
8 conforming changes; and generally relating to prohibited acts by vehicle traffic at  
9 intersections.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Transportation  
12 Section 21–202 and 21–403  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Transportation**

18 21–202.

19 (a) (1) Except for special pedestrian signals that carry a legend, where traffic  
20 is controlled by traffic control signals that show different colored lights or colored lighted  
21 arrows, whether successively one at a time or in combination, only the colors green, red,  
22 and yellow may be used.

23 (2) These lights apply to drivers and pedestrians as provided in this  
24 section.

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) [Vehicular] **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (M) OF THIS SECTION, VEHICULAR**  
2 traffic facing a circular green signal may proceed straight through or, unless a sign at the  
3 place prohibits the turn, turn right or left.

4 (c) Vehicular traffic described under subsection (b) of this section, including any  
5 vehicle turning right or left, shall yield the right-of-way to any other vehicle and any  
6 pedestrian lawfully within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk when the signal is  
7 shown.

8 (d) [Vehicular] **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (M) OF THIS SECTION, VEHICULAR**  
9 traffic facing a green arrow signal, whether shown alone or with another indication,  
10 cautiously may enter the intersection, but only to make the movement indicated by the  
11 arrow or to make another movement permitted by other indications shown at the same  
12 time.

13 (e) Vehicular traffic described under subsection (d) of this section shall yield the  
14 right-of-way to any pedestrian or bicycle lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to any  
15 other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

16 (f) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in §  
17 21–203 of this subtitle, a pedestrian facing any green signal, unless the green signal is only  
18 a turn arrow, may cross the roadway, within any marked or unmarked crosswalk, in the  
19 direction of the green signal.

20 (g) (1) Vehicular traffic facing a steady yellow signal is warned that the  
21 related green movement is ending or that a red signal, which will prohibit vehicular traffic  
22 from entering the intersection, will be shown immediately after the yellow signal.

23 (2) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in  
24 § 21–203 of this subtitle, a pedestrian facing a steady yellow signal is warned that there is  
25 not enough time to cross the roadway before a red signal is shown, and a pedestrian may  
26 not then start to cross the roadway.

27 (h) (1) Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular red signal alone:

28 (i) Shall stop at the near side of the intersection:

29 1. At a clearly marked stop line;

30 2. If there is no clearly marked stop line, before entering any  
31 crosswalk; or

32 3. If there is no crosswalk, before entering the intersection;

33 and

34 (ii) Except as provided in subsections (i), (j), and (k) of this section,  
35 shall remain stopped until a signal to proceed is shown.

1 (2) Vehicular traffic facing a steady red arrow signal:

2 (i) May not enter the intersection to make the movement indicated  
3 by the arrow;

4 (ii) Unless entering the intersection to make a movement permitted  
5 by another signal, shall stop at the near side of the intersection:

6 1. At a clearly marked stop line;

7 2. If there is no clearly marked stop line, before entering any  
8 crosswalk; or

9 3. If there is no crosswalk, before entering the intersection;  
10 and

11 (iii) Except as provided in subsections (i), (j), and (k) of this section,  
12 shall remain stopped until a signal permitting the movement is shown.

13 (i) Unless a sign prohibiting a turn is in place, vehicular traffic facing a steady  
14 red signal, after stopping as required by subsection (h) of this section, cautiously may enter  
15 the intersection and make:

16 (1) A right turn; or

17 (2) A left turn from a one-way street onto a one-way street.

18 (j) If a sign permitting any other turn is in place, vehicular traffic facing a steady  
19 red signal, after stopping as required by subsection (h) of this section, cautiously may enter  
20 the intersection and make the turn indicated by the sign.

21 (k) In each instance, vehicular traffic described in subsections (i) and (j) of this  
22 section shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian or bicycle lawfully within an adjacent  
23 crosswalk and to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another roadway so  
24 closely as to constitute an immediate hazard.

25 (l) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in §  
26 21–203 of this subtitle, pedestrians facing a steady red signal alone may not enter the  
27 roadway.

28 **(M) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A**  
29 **VEHICLE FACING A CIRCULAR GREEN SIGNAL, A GREEN ARROW SIGNAL, OR A**  
30 **STEADY YELLOW SIGNAL MAY NOT ENTER AN INTERSECTION IF THE VEHICLE IS**  
31 **UNABLE TO SAFELY AND COMPLETELY PROCEED THROUGH THE INTERSECTION.**

1           **(2) A VEHICLE THAT IS MAKING A LEFT TURN MAY ENTER THE**  
2 **INTERSECTION WHILE YIELDING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO ANY OTHER VEHICLE THAT**  
3 **IS APPROACHING FROM THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.**

4           **[(m)] (N)** Except for those provisions of this section that by their very nature  
5 cannot apply, this section applies to a traffic control signal placed at a location other than  
6 an intersection. Each stop required by the signal shall be made at a sign or marking on the  
7 pavement indicating where the stop shall be made or, if there is no sign or marking, at the  
8 signal.

9 21-403.

10           (a) Preferential right-of-way at an intersection may be indicated by stop signs or  
11 yield signs placed in accordance with the Maryland Vehicle Law.

12           (b) If the driver of a vehicle approaches a through highway, the driver shall:

13                   (1) Stop at the entrance to the through highway; and

14                   (2) Yield the right-of-way to any other vehicle approaching on the through  
15 highway.

16           (c) If a stop sign is placed at the entrance to an intersecting highway, even if the  
17 intersecting highway is not part of a through highway, the driver of a vehicle approaching  
18 the intersecting highway [shall]:

19                   (1) **[Stop] SHALL STOP** in obedience to the stop sign; **[and]**

20                   (2) **[Yield] SHALL YIELD** the right-of-way to any other vehicle  
21 approaching on the intersecting highway; **AND**

22                   **(3) MAY NOT CROSS INTO THE INTERSECTING HIGHWAY IF THE**  
23 **DRIVER IS UNABLE TO SAFELY AND COMPLETELY PROCEED THROUGH THE**  
24 **INTERSECTION.**

25           (d) If a “yield” sign facing the driver of a vehicle is placed on the approach to an  
26 intersection, the driver shall:

27                   (1) Approach the intersection with caution;

28                   (2) Yield the right-of-way to any other vehicle approaching on the other  
29 highway; and

30                   (3) If necessary, stop in order to yield this right-of-way.

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2   October 1, 2017.