

# HOUSE BILL 889

R5

7lr2661

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By: **Delegate Stein**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2017

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – HOV Lanes – Tow Trucks**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a tow truck to be driven in a high occupancy vehicle (HOV)  
4 lane at all times regardless of the number of passengers in the vehicle under certain  
5 circumstances; and generally relating to the use of HOV lanes by tow trucks.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article – Transportation  
8 Section 21–314  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Transportation**

14 21–314.

15 (a) In this section, “HOV lane” means a high occupancy vehicle lane, the use of  
16 which is restricted by a traffic control device during specified times to vehicles carrying at  
17 least a specified number of occupants.

18 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, a person may not drive a  
19 vehicle in an HOV lane unless authorized by a traffic control device.

20 (c) (1) The following vehicles may be driven in an HOV lane at all times  
21 regardless of the number of passengers in or on the vehicle:

22 (i) A bus;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) A motorcycle; [and]

2 (iii) A plug-in electric drive vehicle displaying a valid permit issued  
3 under § 25-108 of this article; AND

4 (IV) A TOW TRUCK THAT IS PROPERLY REGISTERED IN  
5 ACCORDANCE WITH § 13-920 OF THIS ARTICLE AND IS USING ANY VISUAL SIGNAL  
6 THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 22-218 OF THIS ARTICLE WHILE  
7 RESPONDING TO A CALL FOR SERVICE.

8 (2) A qualified hybrid vehicle displaying a valid permit issued under §  
9 25-108 of this article may be driven in the portion of U.S. Route 50 designated as an HOV  
10 lane, between Interstate 95/Interstate 495 and U.S. Route 301, at all times regardless of  
11 the number of passengers in or on the vehicle.

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