

HOUSE BILL 46

R6

8lr0643

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Folden**

Requested: September 20, 2017

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2018

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles – Farm Equipment – Wide- or Oversize-Load Signals**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing certain farm equipment or vehicles transporting farm
4 equipment that are or may be a certain width or greater to be equipped with amber
5 lights or signal devices; establishing that amber lights or signal devices authorized
6 on farm equipment or a vehicle transporting farm equipment may be flashed or
7 oscillated only if the vehicle or equipment is a certain width or greater; requiring
8 farm equipment or a vehicle transporting farm equipment of a certain width or
9 greater either to display certain wide-load or oversize-load signs or to flash or
10 oscillate certain amber lights or signal devices; making certain conforming changes;
11 and generally relating to wide- or oversize-load signals for farm equipment or a
12 vehicle transporting farm equipment.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Transportation
15 Section 22-218(c)(1) and (e) and 24-102
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
19 Article – Transportation
20 Section 22-218(c)(6) and (11)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

23 BY adding to
24 Article – Transportation
25 Section 22-218(c)(13)
26 Annotated Code of Maryland
27 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Transportation**

4 22–218.

5 (c) (1) A person may not drive or move on any highway any vehicle or
6 equipment that is equipped with or displays any light or signal device designed to emit an
7 oscillating, rotating, blinking, or other type of emission of light, unless designated and
8 authorized by the Administrator as indicated in paragraphs (2) through [(12)] **(13)** of this
9 subsection. The provisions of this section do not prohibit the display and use of any lighting
10 device that may be permitted or required elsewhere in the Maryland Vehicle Law.

11 (6) Service vehicles, waste or recycling collection vehicles, rural letter
12 carrier vehicles, slow moving farm vehicles, and tow trucks may be equipped with or display
13 yellow or amber lights or signal devices.

14 (11) The yellow or amber lights or signal devices permitted on vehicles
15 under paragraph (6) of this subsection may be flashed or oscillated or otherwise used only
16 in the course of official duties, to indicate to the public that the vehicle is a slow moving
17 vehicle or otherwise is impeding traffic.

18 **(13) (I) FARM EQUIPMENT OR A VEHICLE TRANSPORTING FARM**
19 **EQUIPMENT THAT HAS OR, INCLUDING ANY LOAD THAT IT CARRIES, MAY HAVE A**
20 **WIDTH OF 15 FEET OR GREATER MAY BE EQUIPPED WITH AMBER LIGHTS OR SIGNAL**
21 **DEVICES.**

22 **(II) THE AMBER LIGHTS OR SIGNAL DEVICES ALLOWED ON**
23 **VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY BE FLASHED OR**
24 **OSCILLATED ONLY IF THE VEHICLE OR EQUIPMENT WIDTH IS 15 FEET OR GREATER.**

25 (e) Except as provided in subsection (c)(3) **AND (13)** of this section, the flashing
26 lighting described in subsections (b) and (c) of this section may not be used on any vehicle
27 other than an emergency vehicle, service vehicle, or school vehicle.

28 24–102.

29 (a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, for purposes of
30 this section, the width of a vehicle includes any load that it carries and shall be exclusive
31 of safety and energy conservation devices, such as side mirrors, turn signal lamps, marker
32 lamps, steps and handholds for entry and egress, flexible fender extensions, mudflaps and
33 spray suppressant devices, and load-induced tire bulges; providing the equipment or
34 device, other than mirrors, does not extend more than 3 inches on each side of the vehicle
35 beyond the statutory width limitation.

1 (2) For purposes of this section, the width of a motor home or travel trailer
2 shall be exclusive of retractable awnings installed by the vehicle manufacturer or dealer,
3 provided that the awnings do not extend more than 6 inches from each side of the vehicle.

4 (b) This section does not apply to any:

5 (1) **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION:**

6 (I) Farm equipment; OR

7 [(2)] (II) Vehicle transporting farm equipment; or

8 [(3)] (2) Vehicle carrying a load of forage crops in connection with
9 harvesting operations, if the distance traveled with the load on the highways in this State
10 is less than 5 miles.

11 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a vehicle may
12 not be driven on any highway if the width of the vehicle exceeds 102 inches unless:

13 (i) It has a permit issued by the State Highway Administration
14 under § 24–112 of this subtitle; or

15 (ii) As to a highway under the jurisdiction of a local authority, it has
16 special permission from the local authority.

17 (2) (i) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, the State
18 Highway Administration or a local authority may prohibit the use of a highway or part of
19 a highway under its jurisdiction by a vehicle exceeding a certain width if it finds that a
20 vehicle exceeding a certain width likely would:

- 21 1. Endanger road users;
- 22 2. Cause excessive deterioration to the highway; or
- 23 3. Harm property adjacent to the highway.

24 (ii) If the State Highway Administration or a local authority imposes
25 a vehicle width restriction under subparagraph (i) of this subsection, it shall place and
26 maintain a sign providing notice of the restriction before the affected location.

27 **(D) FARM EQUIPMENT OR A VEHICLE TRANSPORTING FARM EQUIPMENT**
28 **THAT HAS A WIDTH OF 15 FEET OR GREATER DRIVEN ON ANY HIGHWAY SHALL:**

29 **(1) DISPLAY WIDE-LOAD OR OVERSIZE-LOAD SIGNS IN**
30 **CONFORMANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE STATE HIGHWAY**

1 ADMINISTRATION; OR

2 (2) FLASH OR OSCILLATE AMBER LIGHTS OR SIGNAL DEVICES
3 AUTHORIZED UNDER § 22-218(C)(13) OF THIS ARTICLE TO INDICATE TO THE PUBLIC
4 THAT THE VEHICLE IS A WIDE-LOAD OR AN OVERSIZE-VEHICLE.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 October 1, 2018.