

HOUSE BILL 391

R5
HB 1412/18 – ENV

9lr0831

By: **Delegates Saab, Bartlett, Carey, Charles, Chisholm, Clark, Cullison, D.E. Davis, Howard, Ivey, Kelly, Kipke, Morgan, Reznik, Szeliga, and Wilson**
Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2019
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes – Hours of Operation on**
3 **U.S. Route 50**

4 FOR the purpose of restricting the days and hours during which a certain portion of the
5 U.S. Route 50 high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane passenger requirement applies;
6 authorizing the State Highway Administration to suspend the day and time
7 restrictions under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the use of HOV
8 lanes.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Transportation
11 Section 21–314
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Transportation**

17 21–314.

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

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

23 (c) (1) The following vehicles may be driven in an HOV lane at all times

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 regardless of the number of passengers in or on the vehicle:

2 (i) A bus;

3 (ii) A motorcycle;

4 (iii) A plug-in electric drive vehicle displaying a valid permit issued
5 under § 25-108 of this article; and

6 (iv) A tow truck that is properly registered in accordance with §
7 13-920 of this article and is using any visual signal that meets the requirements of §
8 22-218 of this article while responding to a call for service if an appropriate law
9 enforcement agency has authorized the tow truck operator to use HOV lanes.

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

14 **(3) (I) FOR THE PORTION OF U.S. ROUTE 50 DESIGNATED AS AN**
15 **HOV LANE, BETWEEN INTERSTATE 95/INTERSTATE 495 AND U.S. ROUTE 301, THE**
16 **REQUIREMENT THAT A VEHICLE HAVE MULTIPLE PASSENGERS IN THE VEHICLE**
17 **APPLIES ONLY MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY BETWEEN 6 A.M. AND 9 A.M. AND**
18 **BETWEEN 4 P.M. AND 7 P.M.**

19 **(II) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION MAY SUSPEND THE**
20 **DAY AND TIME RESTRICTIONS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH IF IT**
21 **DETERMINES THAT THE RESTRICTIONS DO NOT COMPLY WITH FEDERAL LAW.**

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2019.