

# HOUSE BILL 917

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By: **Delegates Szeliga, Arentz, Bromwell, and Jacobs**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles – Motorcycles – Overtaking and Passing Vehicles**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to adopt certain guidelines  
4 for the operation of a motorcycle on a roadway that is divided into two or more clearly  
5 marked lanes for vehicular traffic; repealing certain provisions of law that prohibit  
6 an operator of a motorcycle on certain roadways from overtaking and passing in the  
7 same lane occupied by the vehicle being overtaken and from operating a motorcycle  
8 between lanes of traffic or between adjacent lanes or rows of vehicles; making a  
9 certain conforming change; and generally relating to the operation of motorcycles on  
10 roadways.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Transportation  
13 Section 16–604 and 21–1303  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Transportation**

19 16–604.

20 (a) The Administration shall adopt and enforce regulations consistent with this  
21 subtitle to implement the motorcycle safety courses in training centers throughout the  
22 State.

23 (b) Regulations adopted under this section shall include, but not be limited to:

24 (1) Curriculum, equipment, and facility standards for both classroom and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 laboratory phases;

2           **(2) GUIDELINES RELATING TO WHEN A MOTORCYCLE OPERATOR**  
3 **MAY:**

4           **(I) OVERTAKE AND PASS IN THE SAME LANE OCCUPIED BY THE**  
5 **VEHICLE BEING OVERTAKEN; AND**

6           **(II) OPERATE A MOTORCYCLE BETWEEN LANES OF TRAFFIC OR**  
7 **BETWEEN ADJACENT ROWS OF VEHICLES;**

8           **[(2)] (3)** Minimum student performance standards for successful  
9 completion of the courses;

10           **[(3)] (4)** Standards for the certification of training centers, classroom  
11 instructors, and laboratory instructors;

12           **[(4)] (5)** Guidelines for payment of the State reimbursement to training  
13 centers;

14           **[(5)] (6)** Standards for determining the eligibility of individuals to enroll  
15 in the courses; and

16           **[(6)] (7)** Guidelines for the provision of funds, equipment, and materials  
17 by the Administration to the training centers.

18           **(C) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL CONSULT WITH OTHER APPROPRIATE**  
19 **ENTITIES, INCLUDING THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, THAT HAVE AN**  
20 **INTEREST IN HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTORCYCLE OPERATOR BEHAVIOR BEFORE**  
21 **ADOPTING GUIDELINES IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (B)(2) OF THIS SECTION.**

22 21-1303.

23           (a) **[(1)]** On any roadway that is divided into two or more clearly marked lanes  
24 for vehicular traffic, the following rules, in addition to any others consistent with them  
25 apply.

26           **[(2)** Subsections (c) and (d) of this section do not apply to police officers in  
27 the performance of their official duties.]

28           (b) (1) This subsection does not apply to motorcycles operated two abreast in  
29 a single lane.

30           (2) Every motorcycle is entitled to the full use of a lane, and a motor vehicle  
31 may not be driven in any manner that deprives any motorcycle of the full use of a lane.

1 (c) [The operator of a motorcycle may not overtake and pass in the same lane  
2 occupied by the vehicle being overtaken.

3 (d) A person may not operate a motorcycle between lanes of traffic or between  
4 adjacent lines or rows of vehicles.

5 (e)] Motorcycles may not be operated more than two abreast in a single lane.

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