HOUSE BILL 917

By: Delegates Szeliga, Arentz, Bromwell, and Jacobs
Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Motor Vehicles – Motorcycles – Overtaking and Passing Vehicles

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

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

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

Article – Transportation

16–604.

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
laboratory phases;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21–1303.

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

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

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

(2) Every motorcycle is entitled to the full use of a lane, and a motor vehicle may not be driven in any manner that deprives any motorcycle of the full use of a lane.
(c) The operator of a motorcycle may not overtake and pass in the same lane occupied by the vehicle being overtaken.

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

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

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