

# HOUSE BILL 984

R5  
HB 965/18 – ENV

9lr1762

---

By: **Delegate Parrott**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Left Lane – Use for Passing**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that, on a roadway that has three or more lanes for traffic  
4 moving in the same direction with a certain posted maximum speed limit, the far left  
5 lane may be used only for overtaking and passing another vehicle in a certain  
6 manner and under certain circumstances; requiring the Motor Vehicle  
7 Administration to include certain information as part of its driver education  
8 curriculum and as part of certain publications; prohibiting the enforcement of this  
9 Act by law enforcement until a certain date; requiring the Department of  
10 Transportation to post certain signage; making a certain stylistic change; and  
11 generally relating to the overtaking and passing of vehicles.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Transportation  
14 Section 21–303  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Transportation**

20 21–303.

21 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, this section governs the  
22 overtaking and passing of vehicles going in the same direction.

23 (b) The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle that is going in the same  
24 direction shall pass to the left of the overtaken vehicle at a safe distance.

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle that is going in the same  
2 direction, until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle, may not drive any part of [his] **THE**  
3 **DRIVER'S** vehicle directly in front of the overtaken vehicle.

4 (d) **(1)** Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the  
5 driver of an overtaken vehicle, on audible signal, shall give way to the right in favor of the  
6 overtaking vehicle.

7 **(2) (I) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**  
8 **ON A ROADWAY THAT HAS THREE OR MORE LANES FOR TRAFFIC MOVING IN THE**  
9 **SAME DIRECTION AND WITH A POSTED MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT OF 55 MILES PER**  
10 **HOUR OR MORE, A DRIVER MAY USE THE FAR LEFT LANE ONLY FOR OVERTAKING**  
11 **AND PASSING ANOTHER VEHICLE AND, AFTER OVERTAKING AND PASSING THE**  
12 **OTHER VEHICLE, SHALL RETURN TO THE RIGHT LANE AS SOON AS IT IS REASONABLY**  
13 **SAFE TO DO SO.**

14 **(II) SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT APPLY**  
15 **TO:**

16 1. **A VEHICLE IN THE FAR LEFT LANE PREPARING FOR A**  
17 **LEFT TURN OR LEFT EXIT;**

18 2. **A VEHICLE IN A HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANE IF:**

19 **A. THE HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANE IS A SINGLE**  
20 **LANE MOVING IN ONE DIRECTION; AND**

21 **B. THE HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS ARE**  
22 **IN EFFECT; OR**

23 3. **TRAFFIC CONDITIONS THAT REQUIRE THE USE OF**  
24 **ALL ROADWAY LANES.**

25 **(III) THE MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION SHALL INCLUDE**  
26 **INFORMATION ON THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS PARAGRAPH:**

27 1. **AS PART OF ITS DRIVER EDUCATION CURRICULUM**  
28 **UNDER TITLE 16, SUBTITLE 5 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND**

29 2. **IN INFORMATIONAL PAMPHLETS, DRIVER'S**  
30 **MANUALS, AND ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S WEBSITE.**

31 **(IV) LAW ENFORCEMENT MAY NOT ISSUE A CITATION FOR A**  
32 **VIOLATION OF THIS PARAGRAPH UNTIL ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2021.**

1                   **(V) THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL POST**  
2 **SIGNAGE ON STATE HIGHWAYS:**

3                   **A. ADVISING DRIVERS OF THE PROVISIONS OF**  
4 **SUBPARAGRAPHS (I) AND (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH; AND**

5                   **B. ALERTING DRIVERS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF**  
6 **ENFORCEMENT UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (IV) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

7           (e)     Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of  
8 an overtaken vehicle, until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle, may not increase  
9 the speed of [his] **THE DRIVER'S** vehicle.

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