

# SENATE BILL 199

R5

0lr2031  
CF HB 230

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By: **Senator Lee**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2020

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 24, 2020

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Overtaking and Passing Bicycles**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the driver of a vehicle to drive on the left side of the  
4 roadway in a no-passing zone to overtake and pass a bicycle in accordance with a  
5 certain provision of law and in a certain manner; clarifying certain language; making  
6 a stylistic change; and generally relating to overtaking and passing bicycles.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – Transportation

9 Section 21–305

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Transportation

14 Section 21–307

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 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 21–305.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (a) (1) The driver of a vehicle may not drive to the left of the center of the  
2 roadway in overtaking and passing another vehicle going in the same direction unless:

3 (i) Authorized by this subtitle; and

4 (ii) The left side of the roadway is clearly visible and is free of  
5 approaching traffic for a sufficient distance ahead to permit the overtaking and passing to  
6 be completed without interfering with the operation of any other vehicle approaching from  
7 the opposite direction or any other vehicle overtaken.

8 (2) The overtaking vehicle shall return to an authorized lane of travel as  
9 soon as practicable and, if the passing movement uses a lane authorized for vehicles  
10 approaching from the opposite direction, before coming within 200 feet of any approaching  
11 vehicle.

12 (b) (1) This subsection does not apply on a one-way roadway.

13 (2) The driver of a vehicle may not drive on the left side of any roadway if:

14 (i) The vehicle is approaching the crest of a grade or is on a curve in  
15 the highway where the driver's view is obstructed for such a distance as to be dangerous  
16 should another vehicle approach from the opposite direction;

17 (ii) The vehicle is crossing or approaching within 100 feet of any  
18 intersection or railroad grade crossing; or

19 (iii) The driver's view is obstructed while approaching within 100 feet  
20 of any bridge, viaduct, or tunnel.

21 21-307.

22 (a) **(1)** The State Highway Administration may determine those parts of any  
23 highway in its jurisdiction where overtaking and passing or driving on the left of the  
24 roadway would be especially dangerous and, by appropriate signs or markings on the  
25 roadway, may indicate the beginning and end of these zones.

26 **(2)** [Where] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS**  
27 **SECTION, WHERE** the signs or markings are in place and clearly visible to an ordinarily  
28 observant individual, every driver of a vehicle shall obey their directions.

29 (b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, where signs or markings  
30 defining a no-passing zone are placed as provided in subsection (a) of this section, a driver  
31 may not drive on the left side of the roadway within the no-passing zone.

32 (c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, where signs or markings  
33 defining a no-passing zone are placed as provided in subsection (a) of this section, a driver

1 may not drive on the left side of any pavement striping designed to mark the no-passing  
2 zone throughout its length.

3 (d) The driver of a vehicle may drive [across]:

4 (1) **ACROSS** the left side of the roadway in a no-passing zone while making  
5 a left turn, but only if it is safe to do so; **AND**

6 (2) **IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 21-305 OF THIS SUBTITLE, ON THE LEFT**  
7 **SIDE OF THE ROADWAY IN A NO-PASSING ZONE TO MAKE THE MINIMUM**  
8 **ADJUSTMENT NECESSARY TO OVERTAKE AND PASS AT A SAFE DISTANCE A BICYCLE**  
9 **TRAVELING IN THE SAME DIRECTION WHILE YIELDING TO THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF**  
10 **THE BICYCLE AND ONCOMING TRAFFIC.**

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
12 October 1, 2020.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.