

# HOUSE BILL 222

R5  
HB 964/21 – ENT

2lr1100  
CF SB 416

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By: **Delegate Parrott**

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2022

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 13, 2022

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

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Driving in Right–Hand Lanes – Interstate Highways in Rural**  
3 **Areas**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the driver of a vehicle traveling slower than the general speed  
5 of traffic on certain interstate highways to drive the vehicle in the right–hand lanes  
6 under certain circumstances; prohibiting the issuance of a citation for a violation of  
7 this Act; requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to include information about  
8 the requirement in the State’s driver education curriculum and to inform drivers of  
9 the requirement through certain signage; and generally relating to driving in the  
10 right–hand lanes of a highway.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
12 Article – Transportation  
13 Section 8–101(a) and (j) and 8–507(a)(1) and (3)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article – Transportation  
18 Section 21–301(b)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

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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 **Article – Transportation**

2 8–101.

3 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 (j) “Interstate highway” means a State highway that is part of the national  
5 interstate system in this State, as designated by the Administration and approved by the  
6 United States Secretary of Transportation under Title 23 of the United States Code.

7 8–507.

8 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

9 (3) “Urban area” means an area with boundaries fixed by the  
10 Administration that includes and is adjacent to a municipality or other urban place having  
11 a population of at least 5,000, as determined by the latest federal census.

12 21–301.

13 (b) (1) On every roadway, except while overtaking and passing another vehicle  
14 going in the same direction or when preparing for a lawful left turn, any vehicle going 10  
15 miles per hour or more below the applicable maximum speed limit or, if any existing  
16 conditions reasonably require a speed below that of the applicable maximum, at less than  
17 the normal speed of traffic under these conditions, shall be driven in the right–hand lane  
18 then available for traffic or as close as practicable to the right–hand curb or edge of the  
19 roadway.20 (2) (I) 1. IN THIS PARAGRAPH THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE  
21 THE MEANINGS INDICATED.22 2. “INTERSTATE HIGHWAY” HAS THE MEANING STATED  
23 IN § 8–101(J) OF THIS ARTICLE.24 3. “RURAL AREA” MEANS AN AREA OUTSIDE THE FIXED  
25 BOUNDARIES OF AN URBAN AREA AS DEFINED UNDER § 8–507 OF THIS ARTICLE.26 (II) 1. ON AN INTERSTATE HIGHWAY LOCATED IN A RURAL  
27 AREA, A DRIVER OF A VEHICLE TRAVELING SLOWER THAN THE GENERAL SPEED OF  
28 TRAFFIC, IF PRACTICABLE AS DETERMINED BY THE DRIVER, SHALL DRIVE IN THE  
29 RIGHT–HAND LANE OR LANES.30 2. A. THIS PARAGRAPH ESTABLISHES THE POLICY OF  
31 THE STATE AND GUIDANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE RULES OF THE ROAD.

1 **B. A PERSON MAY NOT BE ISSUED A CITATION FOR A**  
2 **VIOLATION OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

3 (III) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL INCLUDE THE REQUIREMENT  
4 UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH IN THE STATE’S DRIVER  
5 EDUCATION CURRICULUM.

6 (IV) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION SHALL INFORM  
7 DRIVERS OF THE REQUIREMENT UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH:

8 1. BY PLACING AND MAINTAINING SIGNS AT REGULAR  
9 INTERVALS ON APPROPRIATE HIGHWAYS; AND

10 2. THROUGH THE DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGN SYSTEM  
11 LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,  
13 2023, the Motor Vehicle Administration and the State Highway Administration shall report  
14 jointly to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Environment and  
15 Transportation Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article,  
16 on the efforts made to provide driver education and notice throughout the State required  
17 under this Act.

18 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 October 1, 2022.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.