

HOUSE BILL 777

R6

6lr2386

By: **Delegates Spiegel, Foley, Kaiser, Kaufman, Palakovich Carr, Ruth, Schindler, Stewart, Terrasa, Tomlinson, and Wims**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles – Required Equipment – Rear Occupant Alert Systems**
3 **(Hot Cars Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from selling or offering for sale certain motor
5 vehicles manufactured or assembled after a certain date unless the motor vehicle is
6 equipped with a rear occupant alert system; prohibiting the Motor Vehicle
7 Administration from registering a motor vehicle sold in violation of this Act; and
8 generally relating to motor vehicles and rear occupant alert systems.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Transportation

11 Section 22–422

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Transportation**

17 **22–422.**

18 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “REAR OCCUPANT ALERT SYSTEM” MEANS A SYSTEM**
19 **THAT ALERTS THE OPERATOR OF A MOTOR VEHICLE TO INSPECT THE**
20 **REAR–DESIGNATED SEATING POSITIONS OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE AFTER THE**
21 **OPERATOR DEACTIVATES THE VEHICLE’S ENGINE OR MOTOR.**

22 **(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO A MOTOR VEHICLE WITH**
23 **REAR–DESIGNATED SEATING POSITIONS THAT IS:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(1) MANUFACTURED OR ASSEMBLED AT LEAST 1 YEAR AFTER THE**
2 **DATE ON WHICH THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION**
3 **PROMULGATES FINAL REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR REAR**
4 **OCCUPANT ALERT SYSTEMS; AND**

5 **(2) REGISTERED, OR OF A TYPE CAPABLE OF BEING REGISTERED, IN**
6 **THE STATE AS:**

7 **(I) A CLASS A (PASSENGER) VEHICLE;**

8 **(II) A CLASS E (TRUCK) VEHICLE; OR**

9 **(III) A CLASS M (MULTIPURPOSE) VEHICLE.**

10 **(C) (1) A PERSON MAY NOT SELL OR OFFER FOR SALE IN THE STATE A**
11 **MOTOR VEHICLE THAT IS TO BE REGISTERED IN THE STATE UNLESS THE MOTOR**
12 **VEHICLE IS EQUIPPED WITH A REAR OCCUPANT ALERT SYSTEM THAT MEETS THE**
13 **REQUIREMENTS SET BY THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY**
14 **ADMINISTRATION.**

15 **(2) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY NOT REGISTER A MOTOR VEHICLE**
16 **SOLD IN VIOLATION OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

17 **(D) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO**
18 **CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING PROCEDURES FOR**
19 **DOCUMENTATION OF COMPLIANCE AT THE TIME OF SALE OR REGISTRATION.**

20 **(E) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY NOT ENFORCE THIS SECTION IF A FEDERAL**
21 **AGENCY DETERMINES IN WRITING THAT ENFORCEMENT OF THIS SECTION WOULD**
22 **CAUSE THE STATE TO BE INELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE ANY FEDERAL FUNDS.**

23 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**
24 **October 1, 2029.**