

HOUSE BILL 1454

R1, R5

4lr3085

By: **Delegates M. Washington and Proctor**

Introduced and read first time: February 19, 2014

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Winter Driving Safety Act**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Highway Administration to establish a certain
4 public information campaign on the importance of snow and ice removal from
5 exposed vehicle surfaces; requiring the public information campaign to highlight
6 certain dangers, emphasize certain penalties, and develop certain public
7 outreach; prohibiting a person from operating or towing a vehicle without
8 removing from exposed vehicle surfaces certain snow and ice; prohibiting a
9 person from committing a violation of this Act that contributes to an accident
10 that results in property damage or the death of, or serious bodily injury to,
11 another; establishing certain penalties; defining a certain term; and generally
12 relating to the removal of snow and ice from exposed vehicle surfaces.

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Transportation
15 Section 8–656
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

18 BY adding to

19 Article – Transportation
20 Section 21–1130
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

25 **Article – Transportation**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **8-656.**

2 (A) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ESTABLISH A PUBLIC INFORMATION
3 CAMPAIGN THAT EDUCATES THE PUBLIC ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
4 REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE FROM EXPOSED VEHICLE SURFACES.

5 (B) THE PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN SHALL:

6 (1) HIGHLIGHT THE DANGERS OF FAILURE TO REMOVE SNOW
7 AND ICE FROM EXPOSED VEHICLE SURFACES;

8 (2) EMPHASIZE THE APPLICABLE PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO
9 REMOVE SNOW AND ICE FROM EXPOSED VEHICLE SURFACES BEFORE THE
10 OPERATION OR TOWING OF THE VEHICLE; AND

11 (3) DEVELOP:

12 (I) PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MEDIA
13 BROADCAST;

14 (II) A TWO-SIDED COLOR PALM CARD FOR DISTRIBUTION
15 TO THE PUBLIC; AND

16 (III) A 12-INCH BY 18-INCH INFORMATIONAL POSTER FOR
17 DISPLAY IN APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS.

18 **21-1130.**

19 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "EXPOSED VEHICLE SURFACE" INCLUDES FOR A
20 VEHICLE:

21 (1) THE HOOD;

22 (2) THE TRUNK;

23 (3) THE WINDSHIELD;

24 (4) EACH WINDOW;

25 (5) THE ROOF;

26 (6) THE CAB OF A COMMERCIAL OR NONCOMMERCIAL TRUCK;

27 AND

1 **(7) THE TOP OF:**

2 **(I) A TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER BEING TOWED BY A MOTOR**
3 **VEHICLE; AND**

4 **(II) A COMMERCIAL TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER.**

5 **(B) A PERSON MAY NOT OPERATE OR TOW A VEHICLE WITHOUT**
6 **REMOVING FROM EXPOSED VEHICLE SURFACES, BEFORE OPERATION OR**
7 **TOWING, ACCUMULATED SNOW AND ICE THAT POSES A THREAT TO PERSONS OR**
8 **PROPERTY.**

9 **(C) (1) A PERSON WHO IS CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF THIS**
10 **SECTION WHILE OPERATING OR TOWING A NONCOMMERCIAL VEHICLE IS**
11 **SUBJECT TO:**

12 **(I) FOR A FIRST OFFENSE, A FINE OF \$25;**

13 **(II) FOR A SECOND OFFENSE, A FINE OF \$50;**

14 **(III) FOR A THIRD OFFENSE, A FINE OF \$100; AND**

15 **(IV) FOR A FOURTH OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, A FINE OF**
16 **\$200.**

17 **(2) A PERSON WHO IS CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF THIS**
18 **SECTION WHILE OPERATING OR TOWING A COMMERCIAL VEHICLE IS SUBJECT**
19 **TO:**

20 **(I) FOR A FIRST OFFENSE, A FINE OF \$75;**

21 **(II) FOR A SECOND OFFENSE, A FINE OF \$150;**

22 **(III) FOR A THIRD OFFENSE, A FINE OF \$300;**

23 **(IV) FOR A FOURTH OFFENSE, A FINE OF \$600; AND**

24 **(V) FOR A FIFTH OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, A FINE OF**
25 **\$1,000.**

26 **(3) (I) A PERSON MAY NOT COMMIT A VIOLATION OF**
27 **SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION THAT CONTRIBUTES TO AN ACCIDENT THAT**

1 RESULTS IN PROPERTY DAMAGE OR THE DEATH OF OR, AS DEFINED IN § 27-113
2 OF THIS ARTICLE, SERIOUS BODILY INJURY TO ANOTHER.

3 (II) A PERSON WHO IS CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF
4 SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH IS SUBJECT TO:

5 1. FOR A VIOLATION THAT OCCURRED WHILE
6 OPERATING OR TOWING A NONCOMMERCIAL VEHICLE, A FINE OF NOT LESS
7 THAN \$200 AND NOT MORE THAN \$1,000; OR

8 2. FOR A VIOLATION THAT OCCURRED WHILE
9 OPERATING OR TOWING A COMMERCIAL VEHICLE, A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN
10 \$500 AND NOT MORE THAN \$1,500.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2014.