

# SENATE BILL 774

R4, R6

6lr3071  
CF HB 805

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By: **Senator Norman**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles – Autocycles – Standards and Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing that an autocycle is considered to be a motorcycle for the  
4 purposes of the Maryland Vehicle Law; defining the term “autocycle”; establishing  
5 certain driver’s licensing requirements for an operator of an autocycle; prohibiting  
6 certain persons from towing certain vehicles when driving an autocycle; restricting  
7 the course of instruction for certain motorcycle safety courses to the use and  
8 operation of certain motorcycles; restricting the requirement that a person ride on a  
9 motorcycle in a certain manner to persons riding certain motorcycles; requiring the  
10 Motor Vehicle Administration and the Department of State Police to adopt certain  
11 regulations establishing equipment standards for autocycles; making certain  
12 conforming changes; making a certain stylistic change; and generally relating to the  
13 application of the Maryland Vehicle Law to autocycles.

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Transportation

16 Section 11–103.3

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

20 Article – Transportation

21 Section 11–136, 16–104.1, 16–601, 21–1302(d) and (e), 22–412, and 23–104

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

26 **Article – Transportation**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **11-103.3.**2 **“AUTOCYCLE” MEANS A MOTOR VEHICLE THAT:**3 **(1) HAS TWO FRONT WHEELS AND ONE REAR WHEEL;**4 **(2) HAS A STEERING WHEEL;**5 **(3) HAS PERMANENT SEATS ON WHICH THE OPERATOR OR A**  
6 **PASSENGER IS NOT REQUIRED TO SIT ASTRIDE;**7 **(4) HAS FOOT PEDALS TO CONTROL ACCELERATION, BRAKING, AND,**  
8 **IF APPLICABLE, A CLUTCH; AND**9 **(5) IS MANUFACTURED TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL SAFETY**  
10 **STANDARDS FOR MOTORCYCLES.**

## 11 11-136.

12 (a) “Motorcycle” means a motor vehicle that:

13 (1) **(I)** Has motive power;14 **[(2)] (II)** Has a seat or saddle for the use of the rider;15 **[(3)] (III)** Is designed to travel:16 **[(i)] 1.** On not more than three wheels in contact with the ground;  
17 and18 **[(ii)] 2.** At speeds exceeding 35 miles per hour; and19 **[(4)] (IV)** Is of a type required to comply with all motor vehicle safety  
20 standards applicable to motorcycles under federal law; **OR**21 **(2) IS AN AUTOCYCLE.**

22 (b) A detachable sidecar is an accessory to and not a part of a motorcycle.

## 23 16-104.1.

24 (a) (1) A noncommercial Class A driver’s license authorizes the licensee to  
25 drive combinations of Class F (tractor) and Class G (trailer) vehicles and any vehicle that  
26 a noncommercial Class B driver’s license authorizes its holder to drive, except:

1 (i) Commercial motor vehicles; and

2 (ii) Motorcycles **OTHER THAN AUTOCYCLES**.

3 (2) An individual who is issued a noncommercial Class A driver's license  
4 under this subsection may not drive or attempt to drive a motor vehicle on any highway in  
5 this State unless a noncommercial Class A driver's license authorizes the individual to  
6 drive a vehicle of the class that the individual is driving or attempting to drive.

7 (b) (1) A noncommercial Class B driver's license authorizes the licensee to  
8 drive any single vehicle or combinations of vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating  
9 (GVWR) or gross combination weight rating (GCWR), as defined in § 16-803 of this title, of  
10 26,001 pounds and more and any vehicle that a noncommercial Class C driver's license  
11 authorizes its holder to drive, except:

12 (i) Commercial motor vehicles;

13 (ii) Motorcycles **OTHER THAN AUTOCYCLES**; and

14 (iii) Combinations of Class F (tractor) and Class G (trailer) vehicles.

15 (2) An individual who is issued a noncommercial Class B driver's license  
16 under this subsection may not drive or attempt to drive a motor vehicle on any highway in  
17 this State unless a noncommercial Class B driver's license authorizes the individual to  
18 drive a vehicle of the class that the individual is driving or attempting to drive.

19 (c) (1) A noncommercial Class C driver's license authorizes the licensee to  
20 drive any vehicle or combination of vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR), as  
21 defined in § 16-803 of this title, of less than 26,001 pounds, except:

22 (i) Commercial motor vehicles; and

23 (ii) Motorcycles **OTHER THAN AUTOCYCLES**.

24 (2) An individual who is issued a noncommercial Class C driver's license  
25 under this subsection may not drive or attempt to drive a motor vehicle on any highway in  
26 this State unless a noncommercial Class C driver's license authorizes the individual to  
27 drive a vehicle of the class that the individual is driving or attempting to drive.

28 (d) (1) A Class M driver's license authorizes the licensee to drive motorcycles  
29 **OTHER THAN AUTOCYCLES**.

30 (2) An individual who is issued a Class M driver's license under this  
31 subsection may not drive or attempt to drive a motor vehicle on any highway in this State  
32 unless a Class M driver's license authorizes the individual to drive a vehicle of the class  
33 that the individual is driving or attempting to drive.

1 (e) (1) [Except] **THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO AN AUTOCYCLE**  
2 **OR** when the towing vehicle is a commercial motor vehicle[and subject].

3 (2) **SUBJECT** to the provisions of this section, a noncommercial Class A, B,  
4 or C license holder may:

5 [(1)] (I) Tow any travel trailer as defined in § 11–170 of this article;

6 [(2)] (II) Tow any camping trailer as defined in § 11–106 of this article; or

7 [(3)] (III) Tow any boat trailer as defined in § 11–104.1 of this article.

8 (f) This section applies to any license issued or renewed on or after January 1,  
9 1990.

10 16–601.

11 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

12 (b) “Mobile training center” means a mobile unit equipped and managed by the  
13 Administration that may be available for the offering of motorcycle safety courses and for  
14 conducting public awareness activities at various locations in the State.

15 (c) “Motorcycle safety courses” and “courses” mean courses of instruction,  
16 designated and approved by the Administration and offered by a training center, in the safe  
17 use and operation of motorcycles **OPERATED UNDER A CLASS M DRIVER’S LICENSE**,  
18 including instruction in the safe on–road operation of motorcycles, the rules of the road,  
19 and the laws of this State relating to motor vehicles.

20 (d) “Motorcycle safety training center” and “training center” mean places  
21 designated and approved by the Administration where approved motorcycle safety courses  
22 are offered.

23 21–1302.

24 (d) A person may ride on a motorcycle **OPERATED UNDER A CLASS M DRIVER’S**  
25 **LICENSE** only while sitting astride the seat, facing forward, with one leg on each side of  
26 the motorcycle.

27 (e) A person may not operate a motorcycle while carrying any package, bundle,  
28 or other article that prevents [him] **THE PERSON** from keeping both hands on the  
29 [handlebars] **STEERING MECHANISM**.

30 22–412.

1 (a) Every motor vehicle registered in this State and manufactured or assembled  
2 after June 1, 1964, shall be equipped with two sets of seat belts on the front seat of the  
3 vehicle.

4 (b) Every motor vehicle registered in this State and manufactured or assembled  
5 with a rear seat after June 1, 1969, shall be equipped with two sets of seat belts on the rear  
6 seat of the vehicle.

7 (c) A person may not sell or offer for sale any vehicle in violation of this section.

8 (d) For the purpose of this section only, "motor vehicle" does not include any  
9 motorcycle **OTHER THAN AN AUTOCYCLE**, bus, truck, or taxicab.

10 (e) For the purpose of this section only, "seat belt" means any belt, strap, harness,  
11 or like device.

12 (f) A seat belt may not be sold or offered for sale for use in connection with the  
13 operation of a motor vehicle in this State after June 1, 1964, unless it meets applicable  
14 federal motor vehicle safety standards.

15 23-104.

16 (a) Every vehicle driven on the highways in this State shall, where applicable,  
17 have the following equipment, meeting or exceeding the standards established jointly by  
18 the Administration and the Division: brakes, steering, suspension, horn, door handles,  
19 mirrors, tires, exhaust system, lights, glazing, windshield wipers, odometer, speedometer,  
20 bumpers, properly aligned wheels, wheels and wheel lugs, fenders, floor pans, hood, hood  
21 catches, emissions equipment, fuel system, front seat, motor mounts, gear selection  
22 indicator for automatic transmissions, universal joints, and seat belts or combination seat  
23 belt-shoulder harness if required as original equipment under § 22-412 or § 22-412.1 of  
24 this article.

25 (b) (1) The Administration and the Division jointly may establish standards  
26 by rule or regulation for this equipment.

27 (2) The Administration and the Division shall adopt, consistent with  
28 federal law, regulations establishing equipment, performance, and other technical  
29 standards for [low]:

30 (I) **AUTOCYCLES; AND**

31 (II) **LOW** speed vehicles.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
33 October 1, 2016.