

# HOUSE BILL 1451

R5

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By: **Delegates Folden, Parrott, C. Howard, S. Howard, McKay, McMillan,  
W. Miller, Oaks, and C. Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2017

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Left Lane – Use for Passing**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that, on a roadway that has two or more lanes for traffic  
4 moving in the same direction with a certain posted maximum speed limit, the far left  
5 lane may be used only for overtaking and passing another vehicle in a certain  
6 manner and under certain circumstances; establishing certain penalties for a  
7 violation of this Act; making a certain stylistic change; and generally relating to the  
8 overtaking and passing of vehicles.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Transportation  
11 Section 21–303  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 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 21–303.

18 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, this section governs the  
19 overtaking and passing of vehicles going in the same direction.

20 (b) The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle that is going in the same  
21 direction shall pass to the left of the overtaken vehicle at a safe distance.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle that is going in the same  
2 direction, until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle, may not drive any part of [his] **THE**  
3 **DRIVER'S** vehicle directly in front of the overtaken vehicle.

4 (d) **(1)** Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the  
5 driver of an overtaken vehicle, on audible signal, shall give way to the right in favor of the  
6 overtaking vehicle.

7 **(2) (I) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**  
8 **ON A ROADWAY THAT HAS TWO OR MORE LANES FOR TRAFFIC MOVING IN THE SAME**  
9 **DIRECTION AND WITH A POSTED MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT OF 55 MILES PER HOUR OR**  
10 **MORE, A DRIVER MAY USE THE FAR LEFT LANE ONLY FOR OVERTAKING AND PASSING**  
11 **ANOTHER VEHICLE AND, AFTER OVERTAKING AND PASSING THE OTHER VEHICLE,**  
12 **SHALL RETURN TO THE RIGHT LANE AS SOON AS IT IS REASONABLY SAFE TO DO SO.**

13 **(II) SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT APPLY**  
14 **TO:**

15 1. **A VEHICLE IN THE FAR LEFT LANE PREPARING FOR A**  
16 **LEFT TURN;**

17 2. **A VEHICLE IN A HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANE IF:**

18 **A. THE HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANE IS A SINGLE**  
19 **LANE MOVING IN ONE DIRECTION; AND**

20 **B. THE HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS ARE**  
21 **IN EFFECT; OR**

22 3. **TRAFFIC CONDITIONS THAT REQUIRE THE USE OF**  
23 **ALL ROADWAY LANES.**

24 (e) Except when overtaking and passing on the right is permitted, the driver of  
25 an overtaken vehicle, until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle, may not increase  
26 the speed of [his] **THE DRIVER'S** vehicle.

27 **(F) A PERSON WHO IS CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (D)(2)(I)**  
28 **OF THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO:**

29 **(1) FOR A FIRST OFFENSE, A FINE OF \$75;**

30 **(2) FOR A SECOND OFFENSE, A FINE OF \$150; AND**

31 **(3) FOR A THIRD OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, A FINE OF \$250.**

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2   October 1, 2017.