

# SENATE BILL 98

R5  
SB 1120/16 – FIN

7lr1294  
CF 7lr1248

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By: **Senator Reilly**  
Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2017  
Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Railroad Grade Crossings – Exempt Highway–Rail Grade Crossing Plaque**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Highway Administration to erect an exempt  
4 highway–rail grade crossing plaque at certain railroad grade crossings; specifying  
5 the design and placement of a plaque erected under this Act; exempting certain  
6 vehicles from the requirement to stop at certain railroad grade crossings if the  
7 railroad grade crossing has an exempt highway–rail grade crossing plaque; and  
8 generally relating to an exempt highway–rail grade crossing plaque at railroad grade  
9 crossings.

10 BY adding to  
11 Article – Transportation  
12 Section 8–644  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article – Transportation  
17 Section 21–703  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Transportation**

23 **8–644.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(A) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ERECT AN EXEMPT HIGHWAY–RAIL GRADE**  
2 **CROSSING PLAQUE AT EACH RAILROAD GRADE CROSSING IN THE STATE THAT IS NO**  
3 **LONGER IN USE BY A RAILROAD.**

4           **(B) THE DESIGN AND PLACEMENT OF A PLAQUE ERECTED UNDER THIS**  
5 **SECTION SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL MANUAL ON UNIFORM**  
6 **TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.**

7 21–703.

8           (a) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, this section applies to:

9                   (1) Every motor vehicle carrying a passenger for hire;

10                  (2) Every school vehicle carrying any passenger;

11                  (3) Every bus that is owned or operated by a church and carrying any  
12 passenger;

13                  (4) Every vehicle carrying as cargo a flammable liquid or an explosive; and

14                  (5) Every vehicle carrying hazardous materials of a type and quantity  
15 requiring placarding under federal hazardous materials regulations.

16           (b) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section  
17 approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver shall stop within 50 feet but not less than  
18 15 feet from the nearest rail in the crossing.

19           (c) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section  
20 approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver, while stopped, shall listen and look in both  
21 directions along the track for any approaching or passing railroad train and for any signals  
22 indicating the approach or passage of a railroad train.

23           (d) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section  
24 approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver may not proceed until he can do so safely.

25           (e) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section  
26 approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver may proceed only in that gear of the vehicle  
27 in which it will be unnecessary to shift gears manually while passing through the crossing.

28           (f) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section  
29 approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver may not shift gears manually while passing  
30 over any track of the railroad.

1           (g)   (1)   This section does not apply to the vehicles described in subsection (a)(1),  
2 (4), and (5) of this section, at any railroad grade crossing in a business district or residential  
3 district.

4           (2)   This section does not apply to school buses and church buses, as  
5 described in subsection (a)(2) and (3) of this section, at locations within Baltimore City  
6 where complying with the provision of this section would conflict with the existing traffic  
7 signal indications.

8           **(3)   THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE VEHICLES DESCRIBED IN**  
9 **SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, AT ANY RAILROAD GRADE CROSSING WITH AN**  
10 **EXEMPT HIGHWAY–RAIL GRADE CROSSING PLAQUE.**

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