

HOUSE BILL 965

R5
HB 1451/17 – ENV

8lr0398

By: **Delegates Folden and Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2018

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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 three 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; making a certain stylistic change; and
7 generally relating to the overtaking and passing of vehicles.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Transportation
10 Section 21–303
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Transportation**

16 21–303.

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

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

11 (II) SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT APPLY
12 TO:

13 1. A VEHICLE IN THE FAR LEFT LANE PREPARING FOR A
14 LEFT TURN OR LEFT EXIT;

15 2. A VEHICLE IN A HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANE IF:

16 A. THE HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANE IS A SINGLE
17 LANE MOVING IN ONE DIRECTION; AND

18 B. THE HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS ARE
19 IN EFFECT; OR

20 3. TRAFFIC CONDITIONS THAT REQUIRE THE USE OF
21 ALL ROADWAY LANES.

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

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2018.