

HOUSE BILL 702

R5
HB 1043/16 – ENV

0lr1551

By: **Delegate Malone**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Rules of the Road – Lane Changes**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the circumstances under which a driver may move out of or
4 into a lane by authorizing the move when the driver has reasonably determined it is
5 safe to do so and activated the appropriate turn signal; prohibiting a person from
6 moving a vehicle right or left on a roadway in order to change lanes unless the person
7 gives an appropriate signal in a certain manner, subject to a certain exception;
8 providing that a violation of this Act is not a moving violation for the purpose of
9 assessing points; establishing certain penalties for violations of this Act; making
10 stylistic changes; and generally relating to rules of the road for driving on laned
11 roadways and changing lanes.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Transportation
14 Section 21–309(b) and 21–604
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
18 Article – Transportation
19 Section 21–605
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Transportation**

25 21–309.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) (1) A vehicle shall be driven as nearly as practicable entirely within a
2 single lane and may not be moved from that lane or moved from a shoulder or bikeway into
3 a lane until the driver has:

4 (I) REASONABLY determined that it is safe to do so; AND

5 (II) ACTIVATED THE APPROPRIATE TURN SIGNAL.

6 (2) A PERSON WHO IS CONVICTED OF VIOLATING PARAGRAPH (1)(II)
7 OF THIS SUBSECTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$100.

8 (3) A VIOLATION OF PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION IS NOT
9 A MOVING VIOLATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSESSING POINTS UNDER § 16-402 OF
10 THIS ARTICLE.

11 21-604.

12 (a) A person may not turn a vehicle at an intersection, unless the vehicle is in the
13 position required by § 21-601 of this subtitle.

14 (b) A person may not turn a vehicle to enter a private road or driveway or
15 otherwise turn a vehicle from a direct course or move it right or left on a roadway or from
16 a shoulder or bikeway onto a roadway, unless the movement can be made with reasonable
17 safety.

18 [(c) A person may not, if any other vehicle might be affected by the movement,
19 turn a vehicle until he gives an appropriate signal in the manner required by this subtitle.]

20 (C) IF THE MOVEMENT OF A VEHICLE MIGHT AFFECT ANOTHER VEHICLE,
21 THE DRIVER SHALL GIVE AN APPROPRIATE SIGNAL IN THE MANNER REQUIRED BY
22 THIS SUBTITLE IN ORDER TO:

23 (1) TURN THE VEHICLE; OR

24 (2) MOVE THE VEHICLE RIGHT OR LEFT ON A ROADWAY IN ORDER TO
25 CHANGE LANES.

26 (d) (1) When required, a signal of intention to turn right or left shall be given
27 continuously during at least the last 100 feet traveled by the vehicle before turning[;],
28 except that a bicyclist may interrupt the turning signal to maintain control of the bicycle.

29 (2) WHEN REQUIRED, A SIGNAL OF INTENTION TO CHANGE LANES
30 SHALL BE GIVEN CONTINUOUSLY BEFORE CHANGING LANES, EXCEPT THAT A
31 BICYCLIST MAY INTERRUPT THE TURNING SIGNAL TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE
32 BICYCLE.

1 (e) If there is an opportunity to signal, a person may not stop or suddenly decrease
2 the speed of a vehicle [until he] **UNLESS THE PERSON** gives an appropriate signal in the
3 manner required by this subtitle to the driver of any other vehicle immediately to the rear.

4 (f) The signals provided for in § 21–605(b) and (c) of this subtitle:

5 (1) May be used to indicate an intention to turn, change lanes, or start from
6 a stopped, standing, or parked position; and

7 (2) May not be flashed as a courtesy or “do pass” signal to the driver of any
8 other vehicle approaching from the rear.

9 **(G) (1) A PERSON WHO IS CONVICTED OF VIOLATING SUBSECTION (C)(2)**
10 **OR (D)(2) OF THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$100.**

11 **(2) A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (C)(2) OR (D)(2) OF THIS SECTION**
12 **IS NOT A MOVING VIOLATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSESSING POINTS UNDER §**
13 **16–402 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

14 21–605.

15 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, each required stop
16 or turn signal shall be given:

17 (1) By hand and arm in conformity with § 21–606 of this subtitle; or

18 (2) By signal lamps.

19 (b) Each motor vehicle in use on a highway shall be equipped with and the
20 required signal given by signal lamps, if the distance from the center of the top of the
21 steering post to the left outside limit of the body, cab, or load of the vehicle is more than 24
22 inches.

23 (c) Each motor vehicle in use on a highway shall be equipped with and the
24 required signal given by signal lamps if, for any vehicle or combination of vehicles, the
25 distance from the center of the top of the steering post to the rear limit of the body or load
26 is more than 14 feet.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 2020.