

HOUSE BILL 964

R5

11r2412

By: **Delegate Parrott**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2021

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Driving in Right–Hand Lanes – Interstate Highways in Rural**
3 **Areas**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the driver of a vehicle traveling slower than the general speed
5 of traffic on certain interstate highways to drive the vehicle in the right–hand lanes
6 under certain circumstances; requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to include
7 certain information in the State’s driver education curriculum; requiring the State
8 Highway Administration to inform drivers of certain requirements by posting certain
9 signage and providing certain notice in a certain manner; requiring the Motor
10 Vehicle Administration and the State Highway Administration to provide a certain
11 report to certain committees of the General Assembly; defining certain terms; and
12 generally relating to requirements to drive in the right–hand lanes of a roadway.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Transportation
15 Section 8–101(a) and (j) and 8–507(a)(1) and (3)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2020 Replacement Volume)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Transportation
20 Section 21–301(b)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2020 Replacement Volume)

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

25 **Article – Transportation**

26 8–101.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

2 (j) “Interstate highway” means a State highway that is part of the national
3 interstate system in this State, as designated by the Administration and approved by the
4 United States Secretary of Transportation under Title 23 of the United States Code.

5 8–507.

6 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

7 (3) “Urban area” means an area with boundaries fixed by the
8 Administration that includes and is adjacent to a municipality or other urban place having
9 a population of at least 5,000, as determined by the latest federal census.

10 21–301.

11 (b) (1) On every roadway, except while overtaking and passing another vehicle
12 going in the same direction or when preparing for a lawful left turn, any vehicle going 10
13 miles per hour or more below the applicable maximum speed limit or, if any existing
14 conditions reasonably require a speed below that of the applicable maximum, at less than
15 the normal speed of traffic under these conditions, shall be driven in the right–hand lane
16 then available for traffic or as close as practicable to the right–hand curb or edge of the
17 roadway.

18 (2) (I) 1. IN THIS PARAGRAPH THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE
19 THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

20 2. “INTERSTATE HIGHWAY” HAS THE MEANING STATED
21 IN § 8–101(J) OF THIS ARTICLE.

22 3. “RURAL AREA” MEANS AN AREA OUTSIDE THE FIXED
23 BOUNDARIES OF AN URBAN AREA AS DEFINED UNDER § 8–507 OF THIS ARTICLE.

24 (II) ON AN INTERSTATE HIGHWAY LOCATED IN A RURAL AREA, A
25 DRIVER OF A VEHICLE TRAVELING SLOWER THAN THE GENERAL SPEED OF TRAFFIC,
26 IF PRACTICABLE AS DETERMINED BY THE DRIVER, SHALL DRIVE IN THE
27 RIGHT–HAND LANE OR LANES.

28 (III) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL INCLUDE THE REQUIREMENT
29 UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH IN THE STATE’S DRIVER
30 EDUCATION CURRICULUM.

31 (IV) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION SHALL INFORM
32 DRIVERS OF THE REQUIREMENT UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH:

1 **1. BY PLACING AND MAINTAINING SIGNS AT REGULAR**
2 **INTERVALS ON APPROPRIATE HIGHWAYS; AND**

3 **2. THROUGH THE DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGN SYSTEM**
4 **LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE STATE.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,
6 2023, the Motor Vehicle Administration and the State Highway Administration shall report
7 jointly to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Environment and
8 Transportation Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article,
9 on the efforts made to provide driver education and notice throughout the State required
10 under this Act.

11 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2021.