

HOUSE BILL 20

R2
HB 713/22 – ENT

(PRE-FILED)

3lr0442

By: **Delegates Lehman, Hill, Kaiser, Pena–Melnyk, Ruth, and Toles**

Requested: September 22, 2022

Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2023

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Horse Riding – Helmet Requirement for Minors**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting an adult from allowing certain minors to ride a horse on
4 certain property unless the minor is wearing a helmet that meets certain standards;
5 and generally relating to helmet requirements and horse riding.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

7 Article – Transportation

8 Section 21–104

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Transportation**

14 21–104.

15 (a) Every person riding an animal or driving an animal–drawn vehicle on a
16 roadway has all the rights granted to and is subject to all the duties required of the driver
17 of a vehicle by this title, except for those provisions of this title that by their very nature
18 cannot apply.

19 (b) (1) Except in Charles, Worcester, and St. Mary’s counties, or as provided
20 in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a person may not ride an animal or drive an
21 animal–drawn vehicle on:

22 (i) Any divided highway where the posted maximum speed limit is
23 more than 35 miles per hour; or

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) Any controlled access highway.

2 (2) In Anne Arundel County, a person may ride an animal on any part of a
3 highway described in paragraph (1) of this subsection, other than on its roadway or
4 shoulder.

5 (C) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "HORSE" INCLUDES DONKEYS, MULES, AND
6 PONIES.

7 (2) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,
8 THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY TO HORSE RIDING ON:

9 1. A HIGHWAY;

10 2. A PUBLIC HORSE-RIDING PATH; OR

11 3. ANY OTHER PROPERTY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC OR
12 USED BY THE PUBLIC FOR PEDESTRIAN OR VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.

13 (II) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A MINOR WHO IS:

14 1. PRACTICING FOR OR COMPETING OR PERFORMING IN
15 A SHOW OR EVENT WHERE HELMETS ARE NOT HISTORICALLY PART OF THE SHOW OR
16 EVENT;

17 2. CROSSING A PUBLIC HIGHWAY THAT SEPARATES
18 PRIVATELY OWNED LAND;

19 3. ENGAGED IN AN AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE OR
20 PURSUIT; OR

21 4. A MEMBER OF AN AMISH OR A MENNONITE
22 COMMUNITY.

23 (3) AN ADULT WHO IS PRESENT AND DIRECTLY SUPERVISING A
24 MINOR MAY NOT ALLOW THE MINOR TO RIDE A HORSE UNLESS THE MINOR IS
25 WEARING A PROPERLY SECURED HELMET THAT MEETS OR EXCEEDS THE
26 STANDARDS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TESTING AND MATERIALS FOR
27 PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR USED IN EQUESTRIAN RIDING.

28 (4) A VIOLATION OF THIS SUBSECTION INVOLVING AN ADULT
29 SUPERVISING MULTIPLE MINORS AT THE SAME TIME SHALL BE TREATED AS A
30 SINGLE VIOLATION.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2023.