

# HOUSE BILL 659

R1

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By: **Delegates Arentz, Bagnall, Ghrist, Jacobs, D. Jones, and Kipke**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Chesapeake Bay Bridge – Prohibition on Trailers in Contraflow Lanes – Study**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Transportation to conduct a study on the  
4 implications and feasibility of prohibiting vehicles with a semitrailer, pole trailer, or  
5 trailer from using a contraflow lane on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge; and generally  
6 relating to a study on prohibiting certain vehicles from using a contraflow lane on  
7 the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
9 That:

10 (a) In this section, “contraflow lane” means a traffic lane in which the driving  
11 direction can change based on the traffic conditions.

12 (b) The Department of Transportation shall conduct a study on the implications  
13 and feasibility of prohibiting vehicles with a semitrailer, pole trailer, or trailer from using  
14 a contraflow lane on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

15 (c) The study shall:

16 (1) estimate the number of vehicles with a semitrailer, pole trailer, or  
17 trailer that used a contraflow lane on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge over the last 10 years;

18 (2) analyze the hazards, incidents, and accidents involving vehicles with a  
19 semitrailer, pole trailer, or trailer that used a contraflow lane on the Chesapeake Bay  
20 Bridge over the last 10 years;

21 (3) analyze existing laws and regulations involving prohibitions on  
22 different types of vehicles in contraflow lanes;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (4)     analyze the feasibility of installing a camera system that may be used  
2 to identify vehicles with a semitrailer, pole trailer, or trailer that use a contraflow lane on  
3 the Chesapeake Bay Bridge;

4           (5)     analyze available safety measures to require vehicles with a  
5 semitrailer, pole trailer, or trailer to use only the far right lane on the Chesapeake Bay  
6 Bridge;

7           (6)     recommend measures for requiring vehicles with a semitrailer, pole  
8 trailer, or trailer to use only the far right lane on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge; and

9           (7)     recommend measures for penalizing vehicles with a semitrailer, pole  
10 trailer, or trailer that use a contraflow lane on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

11           (d)     In conducting the study required under subsection (b) of this section, the  
12 Department shall consult with local officials and stakeholders that have expertise and  
13 familiarity with traffic safety issues faced by commuters who cross the Chesapeake Bay  
14 Bridge.

15           (e)     On or before December 31, 2023, the Department shall report its findings and  
16 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State  
17 Government Article, the General Assembly.

18           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
19 1, 2023. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31, 2024, this  
20 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no  
21 further force and effect.