

SENATE BILL 416

R5
HB 964/21 – ENT

2lr3004
CF HB 222

By: **Senator Edwards**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2022

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 26, 2022

CHAPTER _____

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; prohibiting the issuance of a citation for a violation of
7 this Act; requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to include information about
8 the requirement in the State's driver education curriculum and to inform drivers of
9 the requirement through certain signage; and generally relating to driving in the
10 right-hand lanes of a highway.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Transportation
13 Section 8-101(a) and (j) and 8-507(a)(1) and (3)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Transportation
18 Section 21-301(b)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



Article – Transportation

1

2 8–101.

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

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

7 8–507.

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

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

12 21–301.

13 (b) (1) On every roadway, except while overtaking and passing another vehicle
14 going in the same direction or when preparing for a lawful left turn, any vehicle going 10
15 miles per hour or more below the applicable maximum speed limit or, if any existing
16 conditions reasonably require a speed below that of the applicable maximum, at less than
17 the normal speed of traffic under these conditions, shall be driven in the right–hand lane
18 then available for traffic or as close as practicable to the right–hand curb or edge of the
19 roadway.20 (2) (I) 1. IN THIS PARAGRAPH THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE
21 THE MEANINGS INDICATED.22 2. “INTERSTATE HIGHWAY” HAS THE MEANING STATED
23 IN § 8–101(J) OF THIS ARTICLE.24 3. “RURAL AREA” MEANS AN AREA OUTSIDE THE FIXED
25 BOUNDARIES OF AN URBAN AREA AS DEFINED UNDER § 8–507 OF THIS ARTICLE.26 (II) 1. ON AN INTERSTATE HIGHWAY LOCATED IN A RURAL
27 AREA, A DRIVER OF A VEHICLE TRAVELING SLOWER THAN THE GENERAL SPEED OF
28 TRAFFIC, IF PRACTICABLE AS DETERMINED BY THE DRIVER, SHALL DRIVE IN THE
29 RIGHT–HAND LANE OR LANES.30 2. A. THIS PARAGRAPH ESTABLISHES THE POLICY OF
31 THE STATE AND GUIDANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE RULES OF THE ROAD.

1 **B. A PERSON MAY NOT BE ISSUED A CITATION FOR A**
2 **VIOLATION OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

3 (III) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL INCLUDE THE REQUIREMENT
4 UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH IN THE STATE’S DRIVER
5 EDUCATION CURRICULUM.

6 (IV) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION SHALL INFORM
7 DRIVERS OF THE REQUIREMENT UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH:

8 1. BY PLACING AND MAINTAINING SIGNS AT REGULAR
9 INTERVALS ON APPROPRIATE HIGHWAYS; AND

10 2. THROUGH THE DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGN SYSTEM
11 LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,
13 2023, the Motor Vehicle Administration and the State Highway Administration shall report
14 jointly to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Environment and
15 Transportation Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article,
16 on the efforts made to provide driver education and notice throughout the State required
17 under this Act.

18 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2022.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.