

SENATE BILL 553

R5

11r2024
CF HB 311

By: **Senator Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2021

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Intersections – Prohibited Acts**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a vehicle from entering certain intersections when facing
4 certain traffic signals if the vehicle is unable to completely proceed through the
5 intersection; establishing certain exceptions to the prohibition; prohibiting a police
6 officer from issuing a citation for a violation of this Act unless certain conditions are
7 met; making conforming changes; and generally relating to prohibited acts by
8 vehicles at intersections.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Transportation
11 Section 21–202
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2020 Replacement Volume)

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

16 **Article – Transportation**

17 21–202.

18 (a) (1) Except for special pedestrian signals that carry a legend, where traffic
19 is controlled by traffic control signals that show different colored lights or colored lighted
20 arrows, whether successively one at a time or in combination, only the colors green, red,
21 and yellow may be used.

22 (2) These lights apply to drivers and pedestrians as provided in this
23 section.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) [Vehicular] **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (M) OF THIS SECTION, VEHICULAR**
2 traffic facing a circular green signal may proceed straight through or, unless a sign at the
3 place prohibits the turn, turn right or left.

4 (c) Vehicular traffic described under subsection (b) of this section, including any
5 vehicle turning right or left, shall yield the right-of-way to any other vehicle and any
6 pedestrian lawfully within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk when the signal is
7 shown.

8 (d) [Vehicular] **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (M) OF THIS SECTION, VEHICULAR**
9 traffic facing a green arrow signal, whether shown alone or with another indication,
10 cautiously may enter the intersection, but only to make the movement indicated by the
11 arrow or to make another movement permitted by other indications shown at the same
12 time.

13 (e) Vehicular traffic described under subsection (d) of this section shall yield the
14 right-of-way to any pedestrian or bicycle lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to any
15 other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

16 (f) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in §
17 21–203 of this subtitle, a pedestrian facing any green signal, unless the green signal is only
18 a turn arrow, may cross the roadway, within any marked or unmarked crosswalk, in the
19 direction of the green signal.

20 (g) (1) Vehicular traffic facing a steady yellow signal is warned that the
21 related green movement is ending or that a red signal, which will prohibit vehicular traffic
22 from entering the intersection, will be shown immediately after the yellow signal.

23 (2) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in
24 § 21–203 of this subtitle, a pedestrian facing a steady yellow signal is warned that there is
25 not enough time to cross the roadway before a red signal is shown, and a pedestrian may
26 not then start to cross the roadway.

27 (h) (1) Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular red signal alone:

28 (i) Shall stop at the near side of the intersection:

29 1. At a clearly marked stop line;

30 2. If there is no clearly marked stop line, before entering any
31 crosswalk; or

32 3. If there is no crosswalk, before entering the intersection;

33 and

34 (ii) Except as provided in subsections (i), (j), and (k) of this section,
35 shall remain stopped until a signal to proceed is shown.

1 (2) Vehicular traffic facing a steady red arrow signal:

2 (i) May not enter the intersection to make the movement indicated
3 by the arrow;

4 (ii) Unless entering the intersection to make a movement permitted
5 by another signal, shall stop at the near side of the intersection:

6 1. At a clearly marked stop line;

7 2. If there is no clearly marked stop line, before entering any
8 crosswalk; or

9 3. If there is no crosswalk, before entering the intersection;
10 and

11 (iii) Except as provided in subsections (i), (j), and (k) of this section,
12 shall remain stopped until a signal permitting the movement is shown.

13 (i) Unless a sign prohibiting a turn is in place, vehicular traffic facing a steady
14 red signal, after stopping as required by subsection (h) of this section, cautiously may enter
15 the intersection and make:

16 (1) A right turn; or

17 (2) A left turn from a one-way street onto a one-way street.

18 (j) If a sign permitting any other turn is in place, vehicular traffic facing a steady
19 red signal, after stopping as required by subsection (h) of this section, cautiously may enter
20 the intersection and make the turn indicated by the sign.

21 (k) In each instance, vehicular traffic described in subsections (i) and (j) of this
22 section shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian or bicycle lawfully within an adjacent
23 crosswalk and to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another roadway so
24 closely as to constitute an immediate hazard.

25 (l) Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in §
26 21–203 of this subtitle, pedestrians facing a steady red signal alone may not enter the
27 roadway.

28 **(M) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION**
29 **AND SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A VEHICLE FACING A**
30 **CIRCULAR GREEN SIGNAL, A GREEN ARROW SIGNAL, OR A STEADY YELLOW SIGNAL**
31 **MAY NOT ENTER AN INTERSECTION IF THE VEHICLE IS UNABLE TO COMPLETELY**
32 **PROCEED THROUGH THE INTERSECTION.**

1 **(2) (I) A VEHICLE THAT IS MAKING A LEFT TURN WHEN FACING A**
2 **CIRCULAR GREEN SIGNAL MAY ENTER THE INTERSECTION WHILE YIELDING THE**
3 **RIGHT-OF-WAY TO ANY OTHER VEHICLE THAT IS APPROACHING FROM THE**
4 **OPPOSITE DIRECTION OR TO A PEDESTRIAN.**

5 **(II) A VEHICLE THAT IS MAKING A RIGHT TURN MAY ENTER THE**
6 **INTERSECTION WHILE YIELDING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO A PEDESTRIAN OR A**
7 **BICYCLIST.**

8 **(3) A POLICE OFFICER MAY NOT ISSUE A CITATION FOR A VIOLATION**
9 **OF THIS SUBSECTION UNLESS:**

10 **(I) THE APPROACH TO THE INTERSECTION HAS APPROPRIATE**
11 **SIGNS INSTALLED THAT NOTIFY THE PUBLIC THAT A VEHICLE MAY NOT MAKE A**
12 **MOVEMENT AT THE INTERSECTION THAT VIOLATES THIS SUBSECTION; AND**

13 **(II) THE SIGNS ARE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**
14 **MANUAL AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF TRAFFIC CONTROL**
15 **DEVICES ADOPTED BY THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION UNDER § 25-104 OF**
16 **THIS ARTICLE.**

17 **[(m)] (N)** Except for those provisions of this section that by their very nature
18 cannot apply, this section applies to a traffic control signal placed at a location other than
19 an intersection. Each stop required by the signal shall be made at a sign or marking on the
20 pavement indicating where the stop shall be made or, if there is no sign or marking, at the
21 signal.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2021.