

HOUSE BILL 174

R5

01r0052

By: **Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (By Request –
Departmental – Transportation)**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2020

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicle Offenses – Following Too Closely – Application to Trucks**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing that certain motor vehicle offenses related to following too
4 closely do not apply to a group of individual trucks that are traveling in a unified
5 manner at electronically connected speeds and are being operated in a certain
6 manner; authorizing the Motor Vehicle Administration to adopt regulations
7 governing motor vehicle offenses related to following too closely; and generally
8 relating to motor vehicle offenses related to following too closely.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Transportation
11 Section 21–310
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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 21–310.

18 (a) The driver of a motor vehicle may not follow another vehicle more closely than
19 is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of the other vehicle and of the

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.



1 traffic on and the condition of the highway.

2 (b) Subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, whenever conditions
3 permit, the driver of every truck, while traveling on a roadway outside of a business district
4 or a residential district and following any other truck or any other motor vehicle towing
5 another vehicle, shall leave enough space so that an overtaking vehicle may enter and
6 occupy the space without danger.

7 (c) Subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, whenever conditions
8 permit, the driver of every motor vehicle towing another vehicle, while traveling on a
9 roadway outside of a business district or a residential district and following any other truck
10 or any other motor vehicle towing another vehicle, shall leave enough space so that an
11 overtaking vehicle may enter and occupy the space without danger.

12 (d) A truck or a motor vehicle towing another vehicle may overtake and pass any
13 other vehicle or combination of vehicles.

14 (e) (1) This subsection does not apply to a funeral procession.

15 (2) A motor vehicle being driven on a roadway outside of a business district
16 or a residential district in a caravan or motorcade, whether or not towing another vehicle,
17 shall be driven to allow enough space between each two vehicles or combination of vehicles
18 so that any other vehicle may enter and occupy the space without danger.

19 **(F) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SECTION, A GROUP**
20 **OF INDIVIDUAL TRUCKS MAY TRAVEL WITHOUT LEAVING ENOUGH SPACE FOR AN**
21 **OVERTAKING VEHICLE TO ENTER AND OCCUPY THE SPACE BETWEEN THEM IF THE**
22 **TRUCKS ARE:**

23 **(1) TRAVELING IN A UNIFIED MANNER AT ELECTRONICALLY**
24 **CONNECTED SPEEDS; AND**

25 **(2) BEING OPERATED IN A REASONABLE AND PRUDENT MANNER**
26 **WITH DUE REGARD FOR THE SPEED OF ANY OTHER VEHICLES AND OF THE TRAFFIC**
27 **ON AND THE CONDITION OF THE HIGHWAY.**

28 **(G) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS**
29 **SECTION.**

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
31 1, 2020.