

# HOUSE BILL 57

R2

0lr0328

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Delegate Ali**

Requested: July 13, 2009

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2010

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Subway and Light Rail Operation Safety Act**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from using a text messaging device to write,  
4 send, or read a text message while operating a subway or light rail vehicle;  
5 defining certain terms; providing a certain exception; providing a certain  
6 penalty; and generally relating to a prohibition on the use of a text messaging  
7 device while operating a subway or light rail vehicle.

8 BY adding to  
9 Article – Transportation  
10 Section 7–708  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Transportation**

16 **7–708.**

17 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE  
18 MEANINGS INDICATED.

19 (2) “9–1–1 SYSTEM” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 1–301 OF  
20 THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.

21 (3) “TEXT MESSAGING DEVICE” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §  
22 21–1124.1(A) OF THIS ARTICLE.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A**  
2 **PERSON MAY NOT USE A TEXT MESSAGING DEVICE TO WRITE, SEND, OR READ A**  
3 **TEXT MESSAGE WHILE OPERATING A SUBWAY OR LIGHT RAIL VEHICLE.**

4           **(C) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE USE OF A TEXT MESSAGING**  
5 **DEVICE TO CONTACT A 9-1-1 SYSTEM.**

6           **(D) ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A**  
7 **MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN**  
8 **\$500.**

9           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
10 October 1, 2010.