

# HOUSE BILL 964

R5

11r2412

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By: **Delegate Parrott**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2021

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 11, 2021

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## 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; requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to include  
7 certain information in the State's driver education curriculum; requiring the State  
8 Highway Administration to inform drivers of certain requirements by posting certain  
9 signage and providing certain notice in a certain manner; requiring the Motor  
10 Vehicle Administration and the State Highway Administration to provide a certain  
11 report to certain committees of the General Assembly; prohibiting the issuance of a  
12 citation for a violation of this Act; providing for the construction of this Act; defining  
13 certain terms; and generally relating to requirements to drive in the right-hand  
14 lanes of a roadway.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
16 Article – Transportation  
17 Section 8-101(a) and (j) and 8-507(a)(1) and (3)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2020 Replacement Volume)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
21 Article – Transportation  
22 Section 21-301(b)  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland

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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 (2020 Replacement Volume)

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

4 **Article – Transportation**

5 8–101.

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

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

10 8–507.

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

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

15 21–301.

16 (b) (1) On every roadway, except while overtaking and passing another vehicle  
17 going in the same direction or when preparing for a lawful left turn, any vehicle going 10  
18 miles per hour or more below the applicable maximum speed limit or, if any existing  
19 conditions reasonably require a speed below that of the applicable maximum, at less than  
20 the normal speed of traffic under these conditions, shall be driven in the right–hand lane  
21 then available for traffic or as close as practicable to the right–hand curb or edge of the  
22 roadway.

23 (2) (I) 1. IN THIS PARAGRAPH THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE  
24 THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

25 2. “INTERSTATE HIGHWAY” HAS THE MEANING STATED  
26 IN § 8–101(J) OF THIS ARTICLE.

27 3. “RURAL AREA” MEANS AN AREA OUTSIDE THE FIXED  
28 BOUNDARIES OF AN URBAN AREA AS DEFINED UNDER § 8–507 OF THIS ARTICLE.

29 (II) 1. ON AN INTERSTATE HIGHWAY LOCATED IN A RURAL  
30 AREA, A DRIVER OF A VEHICLE TRAVELING SLOWER THAN THE GENERAL SPEED OF  
31 TRAFFIC, IF PRACTICABLE AS DETERMINED BY THE DRIVER, SHALL DRIVE IN THE  
32 RIGHT–HAND LANE OR LANES.

1                                   **2.    THIS PARAGRAPH ESTABLISHES THE POLICY OF THE**  
2 **STATE AND GUIDANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE RULES OF THE ROAD AND A PERSON**  
3 **MAY NOT BE ISSUED A CITATION FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

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

7                                   **(IV) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION SHALL INFORM**  
8 **DRIVERS OF THE REQUIREMENT UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH:**

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

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

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

19                                   SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 October 1, 2021.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.