

Chapter 744

(Senate Bill 154)

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Laws – School Bus Monitoring Cameras – Civil Penalty

FOR the purpose of altering the civil penalty for a violation recorded by a school bus monitoring camera for failure to stop for a school vehicle operating alternately flashing red lights; requiring the Montgomery County Department of Police to report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; repealing a requirement that the District Court prescribe a certain civil penalty; and generally relating to civil penalties for violations recorded by school bus monitoring cameras.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Transportation
 Section 21–706 and 21–706.1(a)(6)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Transportation
 Section 21–706.1(e)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

21–706.

(a) If a school vehicle has stopped on a roadway and is operating the alternately flashing red lights specified in § 22–228 of this article, the driver of any other vehicle meeting or overtaking the school vehicle shall stop at least 20 feet from the rear of the school vehicle, if approaching the school vehicle from its rear, or at least 20 feet from the front of the school vehicle, if approaching the school vehicle from its front.

(b) If a school vehicle has stopped on a roadway and is operating the alternately flashing red lights specified in § 22–228 of this article, the driver of any other vehicle meeting or overtaking the school vehicle may not proceed until the school vehicle resumes motion or the alternately flashing red lights are deactivated.

(c) This section does not apply to the driver of a vehicle on a divided highway, if the school vehicle is on a different roadway.

21-706.1.

(a) (6) "Violation" means a violation of § 21-706 of this subtitle.

(e) (1) Unless the driver of the motor vehicle received a citation from a police officer at the time of the violation, the owner or, in accordance with subsection (h)(5) of this section, the driver of a motor vehicle is subject to a civil penalty if the motor vehicle is recorded by a school bus monitoring camera during the commission of a violation.

(2) ~~[(A) THE~~ civil penalty under this subsection ~~[may not exceed] IS \$250~~
\$500.

(3) For purposes of this section, the District Court shall ~~[prescribe]~~:

(i) ~~[(A) PRESCRIBE A~~ uniform citation form consistent with subsection (f)(1) of this section and § 7-302 of the Courts Article; and

(ii) ~~[(A civil penalty, which shall be indicated] INDICATE THE CIVIL~~
~~PENALTY~~ on the citation, to be paid by persons who choose to prepay the civil penalty without appearing in District Court.

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect~~
~~October 1, 2017.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1, 2018, the Montgomery County Department of Police shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the total number of violations recorded by school bus monitoring cameras in Montgomery County after the effective date of this Act, the effect of this Act on the frequency of violations in Montgomery County, and the number of violations recorded in Montgomery County for vehicles travelling in the opposite direction of school buses on multilane highways with painted medians.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2019, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 25, 2017.