

Chapter 539

(Senate Bill 322)

AN ACT concerning

Motor Vehicles – Use of Video and Electronic Display Equipment

FOR the purpose of ~~altering the types of video display equipment that are prohibited from being located in certain areas of a motor vehicle; altering the standards for the location of video display equipment in a motor vehicle; altering certain exceptions to the prohibition against the use of video display equipment in certain locations in a motor vehicle~~ *prohibiting a person from driving a motor vehicle on a highway if the motor vehicle is equipped with certain video display equipment that is turned on under certain circumstances; altering a certain restriction on motor vehicles being equipped with television-type receiving equipment; altering the exceptions to the prohibition against locating certain electronic display equipment in certain areas of a motor vehicle; providing that a motor vehicle may be equipped with certain video display equipment only if the equipment is turned off under certain circumstances; providing for the application of this Act; defining a certain term;* and generally relating to the use of video and electronic display equipment in a motor vehicle.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 22–414
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Transportation
Section 21–1128 and 22–414.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

~~22–414.~~

~~(a) [A] SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A motor vehicle driven on a highway in this State may not be equipped with [television type~~

~~receiving] VIDEO DISPLAY equipment [in front of the back of the driver's seat or otherwise] THAT IS visible to the driver WHILE DRIVING.~~

~~(b) This section does not prevent:~~

~~(1) The use of [television-type receiving] VIDEO DISPLAY equipment in a vehicle exclusively BY A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OR for PUBLIC safety or law enforcement purposes, as approved by the Department of State Police;~~

~~(2) The use in a vehicle of equipment used exclusively for alphanumeric data and text transmission and reception; [or]~~

~~(3) The use in a vehicle of electronic VIDEO display equipment used in conjunction with THAT IS USED AS a vehicle navigation system; OR~~

~~(4) THE USE IN A VEHICLE OF VIDEO DISPLAY EQUIPMENT THAT EXCLUSIVELY FOR SAFETY, WHEN THE EQUIPMENT IS DESIGNED, INSTALLED, AND USED IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE INTENDED PURPOSE OF THE EQUIPMENT OR VEHICLE MANUFACTURER.~~

21-1128.

A PERSON MAY NOT DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE ON A HIGHWAY IF THE MOTOR VEHICLE IS EQUIPPED WITH TELEVISION-TYPE RECEIVING EQUIPMENT OR VIDEO DISPLAY EQUIPMENT, AS DEFINED UNDER § 22-414.1 OF THIS ARTICLE, THAT IS TURNED ON AND DISPLAYING AN IMAGE VISIBLE TO THE DRIVER.

22-414.

(a) A motor vehicle driven on a highway in this State may not be equipped with television-type receiving equipment [in front of the back of the driver's seat or otherwise] THAT IS TURNED ON AND DISPLAYING AN IMAGE visible to the driver.

(b) This section does not prevent:

(1) The use of television-type receiving equipment in a vehicle exclusively for safety or law enforcement purposes, as approved by the Department of State Police;

(2) The use in a vehicle of equipment used exclusively for alphanumeric data and text transmission and reception; or

(3) The use in a vehicle of electronic display equipment [used in conjunction with a]:

(I) USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH:

1. A vehicle navigation system; OR

2. BROADCAST AND SATELLITE RADIO SYSTEM GRAPHICS; OR

(II) DISPLAYING INFORMATION OR IMAGES RELATED TO THE OPERATION OR SAFETY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE.

22-414.1.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, "VIDEO DISPLAY EQUIPMENT" MEANS EQUIPMENT CAPABLE OF DISPLAYING A DYNAMIC VISUAL IMAGE, OTHER THAN TEXT, FROM A DIGITAL VIDEO DISC OR OTHER STORAGE DEVICE.

(B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVEN ON A HIGHWAY IN THE STATE MAY BE EQUIPPED WITH VIDEO DISPLAY EQUIPMENT ONLY IF THE VIDEO DISPLAY EQUIPMENT IS TURNED OFF WHEN THE SCREEN ON THE VIDEO DISPLAY EQUIPMENT IS VISIBLE TO THE DRIVER.

(C) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO EQUIPMENT ON A VEHICLE USED BY A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2010.