

SENATE BILL 378

R5

3lr1153

By: **Senator Jacobs**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2013

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Operation of Vehicle on Approach of Tow Truck**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring drivers approaching a tow truck that is stopped,
4 standing, or parked on a highway and using certain visual signals, unless
5 otherwise directed by a police officer or traffic control device, to make a lane
6 change into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the tow truck under
7 certain circumstances or to slow to a reasonable and prudent speed that is safe
8 for certain existing conditions under certain circumstances; and generally
9 relating to the rules of the road when approaching tow trucks.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

11 Article – Transportation
12 Section 21–405(e)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2012 Replacement Volume)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

16 Article – Transportation
17 Section 22–218(c)(6) and (11)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2012 Replacement Volume)

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

22 **Article – Transportation**

23 21–405.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (e) Unless otherwise directed by a police officer or a traffic control device,
2 when an emergency vehicle **OR A TOW TRUCK** using any visual signal that meets the
3 requirements of § 22–218 of this article is stopped, standing, or parked on a highway,
4 the driver of a motor vehicle approaching the emergency vehicle **OR TOW TRUCK** from
5 the rear shall:

6 (1) If practicable and not otherwise prohibited, make a lane change
7 into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the emergency vehicle **OR TOW**
8 **TRUCK** with due regard for safety and traffic conditions; or

9 (2) If the driver of the motor vehicle is unable to make a lane change
10 in accordance with item (1) of this subsection, slow to a reasonable and prudent speed
11 that is safe for existing weather, road, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic conditions.

12 22–218.

13 (c) (6) Service vehicles, rural letter carrier vehicles, slow moving farm
14 vehicles, and tow trucks may be equipped with or display yellow or amber lights or
15 signal devices.

16 (11) The yellow or amber lights or signal devices permitted on vehicles
17 under paragraph (6) of this subsection may be flashed or oscillated or otherwise used
18 only in the course of official duties, to indicate to the public that the vehicle is a slow
19 moving vehicle or otherwise is impeding traffic.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2013.