

SENATE BILL 621

R5

3lr2782
CF 3lr2577

By: **Senators Raskin, Astle, Forehand, Frosh, Gladden, Jennings, King, Shank, and Stone**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2013

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicles Laws – Emergency Vehicles – Motorcades and Escorts**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the driver of certain emergency vehicles to exercise
4 certain privileges while performing certain motorcade or escort duties;
5 authorizing certain emergency vehicles to travel through any jurisdiction in the
6 State as necessary to perform and return from motorcade or escort duty;
7 requiring a jurisdiction that employs a driver who travels through another
8 jurisdiction while performing or returning from motorcade or escort duty to
9 provide certain notice to the other jurisdiction; prohibiting the driver of an
10 emergency vehicle from using certain equipment while returning from
11 motorcade or escort duty; and generally relating to the performance of
12 motorcade or escort duty by an emergency vehicle.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Transportation
15 Section 11–118
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2012 Replacement Volume)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Transportation
20 Section 21–106
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2012 Replacement Volume)

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

25 **Article – Transportation**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 11–118.

2 “Emergency vehicle” means any of the following vehicles that are designated by
3 the Administration as entitled to the exemptions and privileges set forth in the
4 Maryland Vehicle Law for emergency vehicles:

5 (1) Vehicles of federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies;

6 (2) Vehicles of volunteer fire companies, rescue squads, fire
7 departments, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, and
8 the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute;

9 (3) State vehicles used in response to oil or hazardous materials spills;

10 (4) State vehicles designated for emergency use by the Commissioner
11 of Correction;

12 (5) Ambulances; and

13 (6) Special vehicles funded or provided by federal, State, or local
14 government and used for emergency or rescue purposes in this State.

15 21–106.

16 (a) Subject to the conditions stated in this section[, the]:

17 (1) **THE** driver of an emergency vehicle registered in any state may
18 exercise the privileges set forth in this section while:

19 [(1)] (I) Responding to an emergency call;

20 [(2)] (II) Pursuing a violator or suspected violator of the law; or

21 [(3)] (III) Responding to, but not while returning from, a fire alarm[.];

22 **AND**

23 (2) **THE DRIVER OF AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE REGISTERED IN**
24 **THE STATE OR A LOCAL JURISDICTION IN THE STATE MAY EXERCISE THE**
25 **PRIVILEGES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION WHILE PERFORMING MOTORCADE OR**
26 **ESCORT DUTY IF THE MOTORCADE OR ESCORT DUTY INVOLVES:**

27 (I) **HOMELAND SECURITY;**

28 (II) **A FUNERAL;**

1 **(III) A DIGNITARY; OR**

2 **(IV) FACILITATING THE SAFE MOVEMENT OF VEHICLES OR**
3 **PEDESTRIANS THAT ARE OR WILL BE NEAR THE MOTORCADE OR ESCORT.**

4 (b) Under the circumstances stated in subsection (a) of this section, the
5 driver of an emergency vehicle may:

6 (1) Park or stand without regard to the other provisions of this title;

7 (2) Pass a red or stop signal, a stop sign, or a yield sign, but only after
8 slowing down as necessary for safety;

9 (3) Exceed any maximum speed limit, but only so long as the driver
10 does not endanger life or property; **[and]**

11 (4) Disregard any traffic control device or regulation governing
12 direction of movement or turning in a specified direction; **AND**

13 **(5) TRAVEL THROUGH ANY LOCAL JURISDICTION IN THE STATE**
14 **AS NECESSARY TO PERFORM AND RETURN FROM MOTORCADE OR ESCORT DUTY.**

15 (c) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the privileges set forth
16 in this section apply only while the emergency vehicle is using audible and visual
17 signals that meet the requirements of § 22–218 of this article, except that an
18 emergency vehicle operated as a police vehicle need not be equipped with or display
19 the visual signals.

20 (2) The privileges set forth in subsection (b)(1) of this section apply
21 only while the emergency vehicle is using visual signals that meet the requirements of
22 § 22–218 of this article.

23 (3) (i) The driver of an emergency vehicle may not use flashing
24 lights or a bell, siren, or exhaust whistle while returning from an emergency call **[or**
25 **fire], FIRE alarm, OR MOTORCADE OR ESCORT**, except that fire apparatus carrying
26 standing firemen may use flashing lights that are visible only to the rear.

27 (ii) The driver of an emergency vehicle, while parking or
28 backing the emergency vehicle, may use flashing lights within 100 feet of the entrance
29 ramp to a:

30 1. Fire station; or

31 2. Rescue station.

1 **(4) BEFORE EXERCISING THE PRIVILEGES SET FORTH IN**
2 **SUBSECTION (B)(5) OF THIS SECTION, THE JURISDICTION THAT EMPLOYS THE**
3 **DRIVER OF A MOTORCADE OR ESCORT SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE**
4 **MOTORCADE OR ESCORT TO ANY JURISDICTION THAT THE DRIVER WILL ENTER**
5 **WHILE PERFORMING OR RETURNING FROM THE MOTORCADE OR ESCORT DUTY.**

6 (d) This section does not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle from the
7 duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons.

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