

SENATE BILL 1120

R5

6lr3611
CF HB 1598

By: **Senator Reilly**

Introduced and read first time: February 24, 2016

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Finance, March 2, 2016

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 22, 2016

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Railroad Grade Crossings – Exempt Highway–Rail Grade Crossing Plaque**

3 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring~~ authorizing the State Highway Administration to erect an
4 exempt highway–rail grade crossing plaque at certain railroad grade crossings;
5 specifying the design and placement of ~~the plaque~~ a plaque erected under this Act;
6 exempting certain vehicles from the requirement to stop at certain railroad grade
7 crossings if the railroad grade crossing has an exempt highway–rail grade crossing
8 plaque; and generally relating to an exempt highway–rail grade crossing plaque at
9 railroad grade crossings.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Transportation

12 Section 8–644

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

16 Article – Transportation

17 Section 21–703

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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.



Article – Transportation**8–644.**

(A) THE ADMINISTRATION ~~SHALL~~ MAY ERECT AN EXEMPT HIGHWAY–RAIL GRADE CROSSING PLAQUE AT EACH RAILROAD GRADE CROSSING IN THE STATE THAT IS NO LONGER IN USE BY A RAILROAD.

(B) THE DESIGN AND PLACEMENT OF ~~THE PLAQUE~~ A PLAQUE ERECTED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.

21–703.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, this section applies to:

(1) Every motor vehicle carrying a passenger for hire;

(2) Every school vehicle carrying any passenger;

(3) Every bus that is owned or operated by a church and carrying any passenger;

(4) Every vehicle carrying as cargo a flammable liquid or an explosive; and

(5) Every vehicle carrying hazardous materials of a type and quantity requiring placarding under federal hazardous materials regulations.

(b) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver shall stop within 50 feet but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail in the crossing.

(c) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver, while stopped, shall listen and look in both directions along the track for any approaching or passing railroad train and for any signals indicating the approach or passage of a railroad train.

(d) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver may not proceed until he can do so safely.

(e) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver may proceed only in that gear of the vehicle in which it will be unnecessary to shift gears manually while passing through the crossing.

1 (f) If the driver of any vehicle described in subsection (a) of this section
2 approaches a railroad grade crossing, the driver may not shift gears manually while passing
3 over any track of the railroad.

4 (g) (1) This section does not apply to the vehicles described in subsection (a)(1),
5 (4), and (5) of this section, at any railroad grade crossing in a business district or residential
6 district.

7 (2) This section does not apply to school buses and church buses, as
8 described in subsection (a)(2) and (3) of this section, at locations within Baltimore City
9 where complying with the provision of this section would conflict with the existing traffic
10 signal indications.

11 **(3) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE VEHICLES DESCRIBED IN**
12 **SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, AT ANY RAILROAD GRADE CROSSING WITH AN**
13 **EXEMPT HIGHWAY–RAIL GRADE CROSSING PLAQUE.**

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2016.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.