

Chapter 749

(House Bill 494)

AN ACT concerning

Motor Vehicles – Use of Fog Lights When Windshield Wipers Operating – Repeal

FOR the purpose of repealing the authority of a driver to use a vehicle's fog lights instead of the vehicle's headlamps during the continuous operation of the vehicle's windshield wipers under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the use of vehicle lamps and lights when the windshield wipers are operating.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 22–201.2

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

22–201.2.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, if a driver of a vehicle on a highway operates the vehicle's windshield wipers for a continuous period of time because of impaired visibility resulting from unfavorable atmospheric conditions, the driver shall light the vehicle's headlamps [or fog lights].

(b) A violation of this section is not considered a moving violation for purposes of § 16–402 of this article.

(c) (1) If a person is convicted under this section, the conviction may not:

(i) Be considered evidence of negligence;

(ii) Be considered evidence of contributory negligence;

(iii) Limit liability of a party or an insurer; or

(iv) Diminish recovery for damages arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or operation of a motor vehicle.

(2) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (3) of this subsection, a party, witness, or counsel may not make reference to a violation of this section.

(3) Nothing contained in this subsection may be construed to prohibit the right of a person to institute a civil action for damages against a dealer, manufacturer, distributor, factory branch, or other appropriate entity arising out of an incident that involves a defectively installed or defectively operating headlamp [or fog light].

(d) A person who is convicted of a violation of subsection (a) of this section is subject to a fine not to exceed \$25.

(e) A police officer may enforce the provisions of this section only as a secondary action when the police officer detains a driver of a motor vehicle for a suspected violation of another provision of the Code.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 25, 2017.