

DR-06-17-01

Date: June 9, 2017
Bulletin: All Driving School Owners, Operators, and Instructors
From: Business Licensing and Consumer Services
RE: Legislation

The following are the highlights of bills that have passed and may have a direct impact on Driver Schools.

The following bills are Effective July 1, 2017:

SB 0086 \ HB0494 - Motor Vehicles - Use of Fog Lights When Windshield Wipers Operating – Repeal

This bill repeals the use of fog lights when driving a vehicle on a highway and operating the vehicle's windshield wipers for a continuous period due to weather conditions that impair visibility.

Headlights must be on when windshield wipers are being used.

The following bills are Effective October 1, 2017:

SB0045 - Motor Vehicle Administration - Driving Instructors - Criminal History Records Checks

This bill requires the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to provide MVA with a revised driving instructor criminal history statement if additional information is reported after the criminal history records check performed at the time of initial licensure or the most recent renewal.

This results in driver education instructors having to submit fingerprints only one time. After submission of fingerprints, instructor criminal history will be monitored and reported whenever a change occurs.

HB1456 - Vehicle Laws - Passing to the Right - Use of Shoulder

Maryland Vehicle Law authorizes a driver of a vehicle to overtake and pass to the right of another vehicle only under specified circumstances; however, a driver of a motor vehicle is prohibited from overtaking and passing another to the right by driving off the roadway. This bill authorizes a driver of a vehicle to overtake and pass to the right of another vehicle by driving outside of the marked lane onto the shoulder if (1) the vehicle being passed is making or about to make a left turn; and (2) the passing driver can pass on the shoulder without leaving the paved road surface.

SB 0544 & HB 0720 - Motor Vehicle Insurance - Insurance Identification Card - Carrying Proof of Coverage - Uninsured Motorist Education and Enforcement Fund

A driver shall be in possession of, or carry in the motor vehicle, a valid insurance identification card for that vehicle, issued by their insurance carrier. The insurance identification card may be in tangible (paper, plastic, etc.) or electronic format. As of July 1, 2017 a person who violates this requirement can be fined \$50.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at delicensing@msdot.state.md.us.