

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

Article - Transportation

22-412.4.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "VEHICLE" MEANS AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE PURCHASED OR LEASED BY THE STATE, A COUNTY, OR MUNICIPALITY, OR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OR RESCUE SQUAD AND OPERATED BY A:

(I) A STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPARTMENT;

(II) VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT; OR

(III) RESCUE SQUAD.

(3) "SEAT BELT" MEANS A RESTRAINING DEVICE DESCRIBED UNDER § 22-412 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE STATE AND MANUFACTURED AND ASSEMBLED AFTER JANUARY 1, 1990 SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH A SEAT BELT OR SAFETY RESTRAINING DEVICE APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATION LOCAL AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION FOR EACH POSITION ON THE VEHICLE THAT MAY BE LAWFULLY OCCUPIED BY A PASSENGER.

(C) (1) THE FAILURE OF A PERSON TO USE A SEAT BELT OR RESTRAINING DEVICE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT:

(I) BE CONSIDERED EVIDENCE OF NEGLIGENCE;

(II) BE CONSIDERED EVIDENCE OF CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE;

(III) LIMIT LIABILITY OF A PARTY OR AN INSURER;

(IV) DIMINISH RECOVERY FOR DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MAINTENANCE, OR OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE; OR

(V) BE CONSIDERED A MOVING VIOLATION FOR PURPOSES OF § 16-402 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(2) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A PARTY, WITNESS, OR COUNSEL MAY NOT MAKE REFERENCE TO A SEAT BELT DURING A TRIAL OF A CIVIL ACTION THAT INVOLVES PROPERTY DAMAGE, PERSONAL INJURY, OR DEATH IF THE DAMAGE, INJURY, OR DEATH IS NOT RELATED TO THE DESIGN,