

## CHAPTER 733

(House Bill 699)

AN ACT to add new Section 300A to Article 66 $\frac{1}{2}$  of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Motor Vehicles," subtitle "Operation of Vehicles Upon Highways," to follow immediately after Section 300 thereof, to require CERTAIN buses and commercial motor vehicles operated in this State to be equipped with protectors or flaps on the rearmost wheels, and to specify the requirements for such protectors or flaps.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Section 300A be and it is hereby added to Article 66 $\frac{1}{2}$  of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Motor Vehicles," subtitle "Operation of Vehicles Upon Highways," to follow immediately after Section 300 thereof, and to read as follows:

**300A.**

(a) *After January 1, 1964 no person shall operate or cause to be operated any bus or commercial motor vehicle, including semi-trailers and trailers, upon a highway in this State unless it is equipped with suitable metal protectors or substantial flexible flaps behind the rearmost wheels of the vehicle or combination to prevent the projection of rocks, dirt, water or other substances to the rear and to minimize side spray.*

(b) *Such protectors or flaps shall have a ground clearance of not more than one-third of the horizontal distance from the bottom edge of the protector or flap to the center line of the axle, provided, however, that no protector or flap need be closer to the ground than six inches under any condition of loading. The protector or flap shall extend laterally at least the width of the tire or tires being protected.*

(c) *If any bus or commercial motor vehicle, including semi-trailers and trailers, is so designed or constructed that the objectives in subsection (a) of this section are accomplished by reason of fender or body construction or other means of enclosure, either permanent or temporary, then the requirements of this section have been satisfied.*

(d) *This section shall not apply to any farm tractor or to any vehicle registered as a farm truck or to uncoupled truck tractors or to pole trailers or other vehicles where the construction is such that complete freedom around the wheel area is necessary to secure the designed use of the vehicle.*

(e) *Violation of this section is punishable upon conviction by fine not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each offense.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1963.

Approved April 30, 1963.