

HOUSE BILL 873

R1, R5

4lr2281
CF SB 1001

By: **Delegates Conway, Arentz, Cane, Eckardt, Otto, Proctor, Rudolph, and Smigiel**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2014

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 11, 2014

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Divided Highways – Speed Limits and Crosswalks**

3 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring~~ providing that, on a divided highway that has traffic
4 lights located in certain areas, each intersection that has a traffic light ~~shall~~ may also
5 have a crosswalk through the divided highway; altering the maximum speed ~~limits~~
6 limit on certain divided highways in certain areas; requiring the State Highway
7 Administration or a local jurisdiction to give certain notice to certain members of the
8 General Assembly before increasing the speed limit above a certain threshold on
9 certain highways; requiring the State Highway Administration or a local jurisdiction
10 to hold a public hearing within a certain area of the State to address issues related to
11 the proposed speed limit increase if any of certain members of the General Assembly
12 requests the public hearing within a certain time period; and generally relating to
13 speed limits and crosswalks for divided highways.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

15 Article – Transportation

16 The part designation “Part VI. Sidewalks and Crosswalks” immediately
17 preceding Section 8–629

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

20 BY adding to

21 Article – Transportation

22 Section 8–631

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.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

3 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
4 Article – Transportation
5 Section 21–801.1(a)
6 Annotated Code of Maryland
7 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Transportation
10 Section 21–801.1(b)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Transportation
15 Section 21–801.1(b–1)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Transportation**

21 **Part VI. Sidewalks AND CROSSWALKS.**

22 **8–631.**

23 **ON A DIVIDED HIGHWAY THAT HAS TRAFFIC LIGHTS LOCATED IN A**
24 **COMMUNITY WITH SIGNIFICANT PEDESTRIAN ACTIVITY, EACH INTERSECTION**
25 **THAT HAS A TRAFFIC LIGHT ~~SHALL~~ MAY ALSO HAVE A CROSSWALK THROUGH**
26 **THE DIVIDED HIGHWAY.**

27 21–801.1.

28 (a) Unless there is a special danger that requires a lower speed to comply
29 with § 21–801 of this subtitle, the limits specified in this section or otherwise
30 established under this subtitle are maximum lawful speeds. A person may not drive a
31 vehicle on a highway at a speed that exceeds these limits.

32 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the maximum speed limits
33 are:

34 (1) 15 miles an hour in alleys in Baltimore County;

1 (2) 30 miles an hour on:

2 (i) All highways in a business district; and

3 (ii) Undivided highways in a residential district;

4 (3) 35 miles an hour on divided highways in a residential district;

5 (4) ~~ON A DIVIDED HIGHWAY THAT HAS TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND IS~~
6 ~~LOCATED IN A COMMUNITY WITH SIGNIFICANT PEDESTRIAN ACTIVITY, 40 MILES~~
7 ~~AN HOUR AS THE HIGHWAY APPROACHES THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS, IN ACCORDANCE~~
8 ~~WITH THE MANUAL AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR A UNIFORM SYSTEM OF TRAFFIC~~
9 ~~CONTROL DEVICES ADOPTED BY THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION~~
10 ~~UNDER § 25-104 OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

11 ~~(5)~~ 50 miles an hour on undivided highways in other locations; and

12 ~~[(5)](6)~~ [55] SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B-1) OF THIS SECTION,
13 **65** miles an hour on divided highways in other locations.

14 (B-1) (1) BEFORE THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION OR A LOCAL
15 JURISDICTION ESTABLISHES A SPEED LIMIT THAT EXCEEDS 55 MILES PER HOUR
16 UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(5) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE HIGHWAY
17 ADMINISTRATION OR LOCAL JURISDICTION SHALL GIVE NOTICE TO EACH
18 MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHO REPRESENTS A LEGISLATIVE
19 DISTRICT WHERE THE INCREASED SPEED LIMIT IS TO APPLY.

20 (2) ON THE REQUEST OF A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
21 WHO IS GIVEN NOTICE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MADE
22 WITHIN 45 DAYS AFTER THE PROVISION OF THE NOTICE, THE STATE HIGHWAY
23 ADMINISTRATION OR A LOCAL JURISDICTION SHALL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING
24 IN THE MEMBER'S LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT TO ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO THE
25 PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT INCREASE.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2014.