SENATE BILL 158

R5, R1 4lr0771
SB 298/13 – JPR

By: **Senators Edwards, Astle, Brinkley, and Shank**
Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2014
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Laws – Maximum Speed Limits – Interstate 68

FOR the purpose of establishing that the maximum speed limit on Interstate 68 may be up to a certain number of miles an hour; and generally relating to maximum speed limits.

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

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

Article – Transportation

21–801.1.

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

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

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

(2) 30 miles an hour on:

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**
[Brackets**]** indicate matter deleted from existing law.

(i) All highways in a business district; and

(ii) Undivided highways in a residential district;

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

(4) 50 miles an hour on undivided highways in other locations; and

(5) 55 miles an hour on divided highways in other locations.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a posted maximum speed limit lawfully in effect on December 31, 1974, is a maximum lawful speed even if it differs from a limit specified in subsection (b) of this section.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a maximum speed limit specified in subsection (b) of this section or in effect under subsection (c) of this section may be altered as provided in this subtitle.

(e) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, **BUT EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION,** a maximum speed limit of more than 55 miles an hour may not be established or continued on any highway in this State that:

(i) Is not an interstate highway or an expressway; or

(ii) Would subject the State to federal funding sanctions under 23 United States Code § 154.

(2) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection, **AND EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION,** a maximum speed limit of more than 65 miles an hour may not be established on any highway in the State.

(3) THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT ON INTERSTATE 68 MAY BE UP TO 70 MILES AN HOUR.

(f) (1) Unless otherwise posted on a public road in a residential subdivision, in residential subdivisions in St. Mary's County, a posted speed limit on a main access road applies to all public roads in the residential subdivision, even if the posted speed limit on the main access road is less than 30 miles per hour.

(2) The provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection do not apply when a through road traverses a residential subdivision. The maximum speed limit applicable to the subdivision shall be posted on each road exiting off the through road and into the subdivision, along with the posting on the main access road.

(3) A maximum speed limit established under this subsection in a residential subdivision shall be based on the subdivision's road design, motor vehicle traffic, and pedestrian safety.

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