

# SENATE BILL 68

R5  
SB 252/23 – JPR

(PRE-FILED)

4r1338  
CF 4r1337

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By: **Senators Carozza, Gile, Jennings, Klausmeier, Watson, and West**

Requested: October 31, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Reckless and Negligent Driving – Death of Another – Must-Appear Violation**  
3 **(Sherry’s and Christian’s Law)**

4 FOR the purpose of providing that a person charged with reckless or negligent driving that  
5 contributes to an accident that results in the death of another person must appear  
6 in court and may not prepay the fine; authorizing a court to waive the requirement  
7 to appear under certain circumstances; and generally relating to reckless and  
8 negligent driving.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Transportation  
11 Section 21–901.1  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

### Article – Transportation

16  
17 21–901.1.

18 (a) A person is guilty of reckless driving if he drives a motor vehicle:

19 (1) In wanton or willful disregard for the safety of persons or property; or

20 (2) In a manner that indicates a wanton or willful disregard for the safety  
21 of persons or property.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) A person is guilty of negligent driving if he drives a motor vehicle in a careless  
2 or imprudent manner that endangers any property or the life or person of any individual.

3 (c) **(1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A**  
4 **PERSON CHARGED WITH A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION THAT CONTRIBUTES TO AN**  
5 **ACCIDENT THAT RESULTS IN THE DEATH OF ANOTHER:**

6 (i) **MUST APPEAR IN COURT; AND**

7 (ii) **MAY NOT PREPAY THE FINE.**

8 **(2) AFTER A COURT HAS ISSUED A WRIT SETTING THE DATE, TIME,**  
9 **AND PLACE FOR THE PERSON TO APPEAR, THE COURT MAY, FOR GOOD CAUSE**  
10 **SHOWN:**

11 (i) **WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT TO APPEAR IN COURT; AND**

12 (ii) **ALLOW THE PERSON TO ENTER A PLEA OF GUILTY AND**  
13 **PREPAY THE FINE.**

14 **(D)** A person convicted of a violation of subsection (a) of this section is subject to a  
15 fine not exceeding \$1,000.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
17 October 1, 2024.