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**By: Senator Stone**

Requested: November 13, 1996

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 1997

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Local Authorities - Establishment of Speed Limits in Alleys**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing local authorities to set appropriate speed limits in alleys  
4 within their jurisdiction; requiring a local authority that sets a speed limit under this  
5 Act to post the speed limit on appropriate signs; and generally relating to the  
6 authority of local authorities to set speed limits in alleys.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
8 Article - Transportation  
9 Section 11-130 and 21-101(b)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article - Transportation  
14 Section 21-803  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

19 **Article - Transportation**

20 11-130.

21 "Local authority" means a political subdivision or a local board or other body that,  
22 under the laws of this State, has authority to enact laws and adopt local police regulations  
23 relating to traffic.

24 21-101.

25 (b) "Alley" means a street that:

26 (1) Is intended to provide access to the rear or side of a lot or building in an  
27 urban district; and

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1 (2) Is not intended for through vehicular traffic.

2 21-803.

3 (a) (1) If, on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, a local  
4 authority determines that any maximum speed limit specified in this subtitle is greater or  
5 less than reasonable or safe under existing conditions on any part of a highway in its  
6 jurisdiction, it may establish a reasonable and safe maximum speed limit for that part of  
7 the highway, which may:

8 (i) Decrease the limit at an intersection;

9 (ii) Increase the limit in an urban district to not more than 50 miles an  
10 hour;

11 (iii) Decrease the limit in an urban district; or

12 (iv) Decrease the limit outside an urban district to not less than 25  
13 miles an hour.

14 (2) An engineering and traffic investigation is not required to conform a  
15 posted maximum speed limit in effect on December 31, 1974, to a different limit specified  
16 in § 21-801.1(b) of this subtitle.

17 (b) In school zones designated and posted by the local authorities of any county:

18 (1) The county may decrease the maximum speed limit to 15 miles per hour  
19 during school hours, provided the county pays the cost of placing and maintaining the  
20 necessary signs; and

21 (2) Any municipality within each county may decrease the maximum speed  
22 limit in a school zone within the municipality to 15 miles per hour during school hours,  
23 provided the municipality pays the cost of placing and maintaining the necessary signs.

24 (c) An altered maximum speed limit established under this section is effective  
25 when posted on appropriate signs giving notice of the limit.

26 (d) Except in Baltimore City, any alteration by a local authority of a maximum  
27 speed limit on a part or extension of a State highway is not effective until it is approved  
28 by the State Highway Administration.

29 (E) (1) IF A LOCAL AUTHORITY DETERMINES THAT ANY MAXIMUM SPEED  
30 LIMIT SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBTITLE IS GREATER THAN REASONABLE OR SAFE IN AN  
31 ALLEY IN ITS JURISDICTION, THE LOCAL AUTHORITY MAY ESTABLISH A  
32 REASONABLE AND SAFE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT FOR THE ALLEY.

33 (2) THE LOCAL AUTHORITY SHALL POST A SPEED LIMIT ESTABLISHED  
34 UNDER THIS SUBSECTION ON APPROPRIATE SIGNS GIVING NOTICE OF THE SPEED  
35 LIMIT.

36 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
37 October 1, 1997.