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By: **Senator Ruben**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 1998

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Speeding Violations - Increasing Fines**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Chief Judge of the District Court, in adopting the  
4 penalty deposit schedule for the prepayment of fines imposed for violations of  
5 the Maryland Vehicle Law, to increase certain fines for speeding violations  
6 occurring in certain speed zones; requiring the Chief Judge of the District Court  
7 each year to adjust, in a certain manner, the fines specified in the penalty  
8 deposit schedule for certain speeding violations; and generally relating to fines  
9 for speeding violations.

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, It is the legislative intent of the General Assembly of Maryland that  
12 the safety of drivers and pedestrians on our roads be protected to the greatest extent  
13 possible; and

14 WHEREAS, The speed limits set by the State Highway Administration are  
15 intended to reflect the prudent and safe speed at which drivers may reasonably  
16 operate their vehicles; and

17 WHEREAS, The establishment of speed limits under 35 miles per hour (mph)  
18 reflects safety concerns related to the residential or commercial nature of the  
19 community adjacent to the highway, road conditions, limited sight lines, and other  
20 factors; and

21 WHEREAS, There is an increasingly large number of drivers who violate the  
22 speed limit in areas where the limit is under 35 mph; and

23 WHEREAS, There is a particular need for increased penalties to deter drivers  
24 from violating the speed limits in areas where the limit is under 35 mph; now,  
25 therefore,

26 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
27 MARYLAND, That:

1 (a) For the purposes of the prepayment of fines imposed for violations of the  
2 Maryland Vehicle Law, the Chief Judge of the District Court, in adopting the penalty  
3 deposit schedule, shall double the fines in effect as of October 1, 1997 for exceeding  
4 the speed limit in an under 35 mile per hour speed zone.

5 (b) The Chief Judge of the District Court, when reevaluating the fines  
6 contained in the penalty deposit schedule, each year, shall adjust the fines for  
7 exceeding the speed limit in an under 35 mile per hour speed zone as necessary to  
8 maintain the relationship established under this Act between the fines for speeding in  
9 a 35 miles per hour speed zone and the fines specified for other speed limit violations.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 October 1, 1998.