
By: **Senators Stone and Green**
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Speeding in a School Zone - Penalties**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that warning lights must be in place
4 and flashing in order for fines to be doubled for speeding in a school zone during
5 certain hours; clarifying language; and generally relating to fines for speeding in
6 a school zone.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article - Transportation
9 Section 21-803.1 and 27-101(r)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

14 **Article - Transportation**

15 21-803.1.

16 (a) (1) Subject to subsection (f) of this section, within a half-mile radius of
17 any school, the State Highway Administration or a local authority:

18 (i) May establish a school zone and maximum speed limits
19 applicable in the school zone; and

20 (ii) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, may provide that fines
21 are to be doubled for speeding violations within the school zone.

22 (2) (i) The State Highway Administration may establish a school zone
23 under paragraph (1) of this subsection on any State highway or, at the request of a
24 local authority, on any highway under the jurisdiction of the local authority.

25 (ii) A local authority may establish a school zone under paragraph
26 (1) of this subsection on any highway under its jurisdiction.

1 (b) (1) On each highway where a school zone is established under this
2 section, in accordance with specifications of the State Highway Administration, the
3 State Highway Administration or local authority:

4 (i) Shall place signs designating the school zone; and

5 (ii) May place other traffic control devices, including timed flashing
6 warning lights.

7 (2) The signs designating a school zone shall indicate the maximum
8 speed limit applicable in the school zone.

9 (3) The local authority shall pay the State Highway Administration the
10 cost of placing and maintaining signs and other traffic control devices on highways
11 under the jurisdiction of the local authority when the State Highway Administration
12 establishes the school zone at the local authority's request.

13 (c) A maximum speed limit in a school zone established under this section is
14 in effect when posted on appropriate signs giving notice of the limit.

15 (d) The fines for speeding in a school zone DURING THE HOURS POSTED ON
16 SIGNS DESIGNATING THE SCHOOL ZONE are double the amount that would otherwise
17 apply [if, in accordance with specifications adopted by the State Highway
18 Administration:

19 (1) A sign designating a school zone under this section is equipped with
20 timed flashing warning lights and indicates that fines for speeding are doubled when
21 the lights are activated; and

22 (2) The lights are activated at the time the violation occurs].

23 (e) A person may not drive a motor vehicle at a speed exceeding the posted
24 speed limit within a school zone established [in accordance with subsection (d) of]
25 UNDER this section.

26 (f) In any school zone where a school crossing guard is posted to assist
27 students in crossing a highway, the maximum speed limit may not exceed 35 miles
28 per hour in the school zone during the hours posted on signs designating the school
29 zone.

30 27-101.

31 (r) Any person who is convicted of a violation of § 21-803.1(e) of this article
32 (Fines doubled for speeding within school zones) is subject to a fine of not more than
33 \$1,000 [if timed flashing warning lights were activated at the time of the violation,
34 indicating that doubled fines are in effect].

35 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
36 effect October 1, 1999.