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

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 16, 1999

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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 establishing that fines for speeding in a~~  
6 school zone are doubled if a sign designating the school zone indicates that fines  
7 for speeding are doubled during school hours; repealing a limitation on a certain  
8 penalty for speeding within a school zone; and generally relating to fines for  
9 speeding in a school zone.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article - Transportation  
12 Section 21-803.1 and 27-101(r)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

17 **Article - Transportation**

18 21-803.1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (d) The fines for speeding in a school zone ~~DURING THE HOURS POSTED ON~~  
23 ~~SIGNS DESIGNATING THE SCHOOL ZONE~~ are double the amount that would otherwise  
24 apply ~~if~~, in accordance with specifications adopted by the State Highway  
25 Administration:

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

29 ~~(2)~~ (II) The lights are activated at the time the violation occurs; OR

30 (2) A SIGN DESIGNATING A SCHOOL ZONE UNDER THIS SECTION  
31 INDICATES THAT FINES FOR SPEEDING ARE DOUBLED DURING SCHOOL HOURS.

32 (e) A person may not drive a motor vehicle at a speed exceeding the posted  
33 speed limit within a school zone established ~~in accordance with subsection (d) of~~  
34 ~~UNDER~~ this section.

35 (f) In any school zone where a school crossing guard is posted to assist  
36 students in crossing a highway, the maximum speed limit may not exceed 35 miles

1 per hour in the school zone during the hours posted on signs designating the school  
2 zone.

3 27-101.

4 (r) Any person who is convicted of a violation of § 21-803.1(e) of this article  
5 (Fines doubled for speeding within school zones) is subject to a fine of not more than  
6 \$1,000 [if timed flashing warning lights were activated at the time of the violation,  
7 indicating that doubled fines are in effect].

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