

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 890 (Delegate Impallaria, *et al.*)  
Environmental Matters

---

**Motor Vehicle Laws - Alleys - Maximum Speed Limits**

---

This bill establishes a maximum speed limit of 10 miles per hour in alleys.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues due to the bill's penalty provision. No effect on expenditures.

**Local Effect:** None. The bill's provisions could be enforced with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** An "alley" is a street that provides access to the rear or side of a lot or building in an urban area and is not designed for through traffic. State law does not establish a maximum speed limit for alleys.

Except as otherwise provided, the maximum speed limits are:

- 30 miles an hour on all highways in a business district and undivided highways in a residential district;
- 35 miles an hour on divided highways in a residential district;
- 50 miles an hour on undivided highways in other locations; and
- 55 miles an hour on divided highways in other locations.

Except as otherwise provided, a posted maximum speed limit in effect on December 31, 1974, is the maximum lawful speed even if it differs from a speed limit specified in State law. A posted maximum speed limit specified either in State law or in effect as of December 31, 1974, may be altered, except as the limit pertains to the maximum allowed for highways.

Exceeding the maximum speed limit is a misdemeanor, punishable by a maximum fine of \$500. The following are the prepayment fines assessed by the District Court (including court costs) and the points assessed by the Motor Vehicle Administration for excessive speeding:

<u>Miles Per Hour</u>	<u>Fine and Points</u>
1 – 9	\$70/1
10 – 19	\$80/2
20 – 29	\$145/2
30 – 39	\$280/5
40 and over	\$520/5*

\*Note: The fine for exceeding the speed limit by 40 mph and over is the maximum of \$500, plus court costs.

**State Revenues:** General fund revenues could increase minimally under the bill's monetary penalty provision for those cases heard in the District Court. No effect on expenditures.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None. However, a similar bill, HB 1180 of 2005, was given an unfavorable report by the House Environmental Matters Committee.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 24, 2006  
ncs/ljm

---

Analysis by: Karen D. Morgan

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510

