

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 7  
Judicial Proceedings

(Senator Klausmeier, *et al.*)

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**Vehicle Laws - Alleys - Speed Limits**

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This bill establishes a maximum speed limit of 15 miles per hour in alleys.

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**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.

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**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, 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:

1 to 9 miles per hour (mph)	\$70/1 point
10 to 19 mph	\$80/2 points
20 to 29 mph	\$145/2 points
30 to 39 mph	\$280/5 points
40 mph and over	\$520*/5 points

*\*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.

**Local Expenditures:** Prince George's, Montgomery, and Caroline counties all advise that this bill could be enforced using existing resources. Caroline County stated that even with its new residential growth, there would likely not be many citations issued for violating the speed limit in an alley.

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### Additional Information

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

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Caroline County, Calvert County, Howard County, Maryland Department of Transportation, Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 24, 2006  
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