

# SENATE BILL 38

R5

(PRE-FILED)

9lr0925

CF 9lr0812

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By: **Senator Colburn**

Requested: November 6, 2008

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2009

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Reduction of Speed Limits by Local Authorities - Engineering**  
3 **and Traffic Investigations**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing a county, municipality, or other public body that has  
5 the authority to enact laws and adopt local police regulations relating to traffic  
6 to decrease a certain maximum speed limit in a business district or a residential  
7 district to not less than a certain speed without conducting an engineering and  
8 traffic investigation; and generally relating to the reduction of speed limits.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article - Transportation  
11 Section 21-801.1(b)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article - Transportation  
16 Section 21-803(a)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

21 **Article - Transportation**

22 21-801.1.

23 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the maximum speed limits  
24 are:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (1) 15 miles an hour in alleys in Baltimore County;
- 2 (2) 30 miles an hour on:
- 3 (i) All highways in a business district; and
- 4 (ii) Undivided highways in a residential district;
- 5 (3) 35 miles an hour on divided highways in a residential district;
- 6 (4) 50 miles an hour on undivided highways in other locations; and
- 7 (5) 55 miles an hour on divided highways in other locations.

8 21-803.

9 (a) (1) **[If SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF**, on  
 10 the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, a local authority determines that  
 11 any maximum speed limit specified in this subtitle is greater or less than reasonable  
 12 or safe under existing conditions on any part of a highway in its jurisdiction, it may  
 13 establish a reasonable and safe maximum speed limit for that part of the highway,  
 14 which may:

- 15 (i) Decrease the limit at an intersection;
- 16 (ii) Increase the limit in an urban district to not more than 50  
 17 miles an hour;
- 18 (iii) Decrease the limit in an urban district; or
- 19 (iv) Decrease the limit outside an urban district to not less than  
 20 25 miles an hour.

21 (2) An engineering and traffic investigation is not required to  
 22 **[conform]:**

23 **(I) CONFORM** a posted maximum speed limit in effect on  
 24 December 31, 1974, to a different limit specified in § 21-801.1(b) of this subtitle; **OR**

25 **(II) DECREASE A MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT IN A BUSINESS**  
 26 **DISTRICT OR A RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO NOT LESS THAN 25 MILES AN HOUR.**

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
 28 October 1, 2009.