

# SENATE BILL 872

R5

EMERGENCY BILL

8lr1861  
CF HB 1406

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By: **Senator Mathias**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2018

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 16, 2018

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Special Event Zones – Worcester County**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing in Worcester County the State Highway Administration,  
4 on its own initiative or at the request of a local authority, to designate an area on a  
5 State highway as a special event zone and reduce established speed limits in the  
6 special event zone after making a certain determination; authorizing a local  
7 authority to designate an area on a highway under its jurisdiction as a special event  
8 zone and reduce established speed limits in the special event zone after making a  
9 certain determination; providing that a speed limit established under this Act shall  
10 become effective when posted; prohibiting a person from driving a motor vehicle at a  
11 speed exceeding the posted speed limit within a special event zone; ~~prohibiting a~~  
12 ~~driver from committing certain violations while driving in a special event zone while~~  
13 ~~pedestrians are present; prohibiting a driver from committing a certain violation~~  
14 ~~that results in bodily injury or death to another person;~~ establishing certain  
15 penalties for certain violations of this Act; providing for the application of this Act;  
16 defining certain terms; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally  
17 relating to highway special event zones.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
19 Article – Transportation  
20 Section 11–130  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

23 BY adding to

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**EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Article – Transportation  
 2 Section 21–811 ~~and 21–906~~  
 3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 4 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

7 **Article – Transportation**

8 11–130.

9 “Local authority” means a political subdivision or a local board or other body that,  
 10 under the laws of this State, has authority to enact laws and adopt local police regulations  
 11 relating to traffic.

12 **21–811.**

13 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
 14 INDICATED.

15 (2) ~~(H)~~ “SPECIAL EVENT” MEANS ANY AUTOMOTIVE,  
 16 ~~ENTERTAINMENT, AMUSEMENT, RECREATION, SPORTING, MARKETING, OR~~  
 17 ~~COMMUNITY EVENT AT WHICH THE PUBLIC GATHERS IN LARGE NUMBERS AND IN~~  
 18 ~~CLOSE PROXIMITY TO A HIGHWAY.~~

19 ~~(H) “SPECIAL EVENT” INCLUDES:~~

20 1. ~~A VEHICLE SHOW, A BOAT SHOW, OR AN OUTDOOR~~  
 21 ~~RECREATION SHOW;~~

22 2. ~~A FESTIVAL, FAIR, OR CARNIVAL;~~

23 3. ~~A PARADE;~~

24 4. ~~A CIRCUS;~~

25 5. ~~A CONCERT;~~

26 6. ~~A BLOCK PARTY; AND~~

27 7. ~~A FIREWORKS DISPLAY OR MOTOR VEHICLE EVENT~~  
 28 OCCURRING ON OR IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO A HIGHWAY THAT:

1                   **(I) HAS BEEN PERMITTED OR APPROVED BY A UNIT OF LOCAL**  
2 **GOVERNMENT; OR**

3                   **(II) IS EXPECTED TO HAVE 1,000 OR MORE INDIVIDUALS IN**  
4 **ATTENDANCE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE EVENT HAS BEEN PERMITTED OR**  
5 **APPROVED BY A UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**

6                   **(3) “SPECIAL EVENT ZONE” MEANS AN AREA ON OR ALONGSIDE A**  
7 **HIGHWAY THAT IS MARKED BY APPROPRIATE WARNING SIGNS OR OTHER TRAFFIC**  
8 **CONTROL DEVICES DESIGNATING THAT A SPECIAL EVENT IS IN PROGRESS.**

9                   **(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN WORCESTER COUNTY.**

10                   ~~**(B)**~~**(C)**       **(1) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION MAY, ON ITS OWN**  
11 **INITIATIVE OR AT THE REQUEST OF A LOCAL AUTHORITY:**

12                   **(I) DESIGNATE AN AREA ON A STATE HIGHWAY AS A SPECIAL**  
13 **EVENT ZONE; AND**

14                   **(II) REDUCE ESTABLISHED SPEED LIMITS IN THE SPECIAL**  
15 **EVENT ZONE AFTER A DETERMINATION THAT THE CHANGE IS NECESSARY TO**  
16 **ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY.**

17                   **(2) A LOCAL AUTHORITY MAY:**

18                   **(I) DESIGNATE AN AREA ON A HIGHWAY UNDER ITS**  
19 **JURISDICTION AS A SPECIAL EVENT ZONE; AND**

20                   **(II) REDUCE ESTABLISHED SPEED LIMITS IN THE SPECIAL**  
21 **EVENT ZONE AFTER A DETERMINATION THAT THE CHANGE IS NECESSARY TO**  
22 **ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY.**

23                   ~~**(C)**~~**(D)**       **A SPEED LIMIT ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL**  
24 **BECOME EFFECTIVE WHEN POSTED.**

25                   ~~**(D)**~~**(E)**       **A PERSON MAY NOT DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE AT A SPEED**  
26 **EXCEEDING THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT WITHIN A SPECIAL EVENT ZONE**  
27 **ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.**

28                   ~~**(E)**~~**(F)**       **A PERSON CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION ~~**(D)**~~ **(E)** OF**  
29 **THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000.**

30 ~~**21-906**~~

~~(A) A DRIVER MAY NOT COMMIT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING VIOLATIONS WHILE DRIVING IN A SPECIAL EVENT ZONE ESTABLISHED UNDER § 21-811 OF THIS TITLE WHILE PEDESTRIANS ARE PRESENT:~~

~~(1) § 21-901.1(A) OF THIS SUBTITLE (RECKLESS DRIVING);~~

~~(2) § 21-901.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE (AGGRESSIVE DRIVING);~~

~~(3) § 21-1116 OF THIS TITLE (RACE OR SPEED CONTEST PROHIBITED); OR~~

~~(4) § 21-1117 OF THIS TITLE (SKIDDING, SPINNING OF WHEELS, AND EXCESSIVE NOISE PROHIBITED).~~

~~(B) (1) A DRIVER MAY NOT COMMIT A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION THAT RESULTS IN BODILY INJURY TO ANOTHER PERSON.~~

~~(2) A DRIVER MAY NOT COMMIT A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION THAT RESULTS IN DEATH OF ANOTHER PERSON.~~

~~(C) (1) A PERSON CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO:~~

~~(i) FOR A FIRST OFFENSE, IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 1 YEAR OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 OR BOTH; AND~~

~~(ii) FOR A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 2 YEARS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 OR BOTH.~~

~~(2) A PERSON CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 3 YEARS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000 OR BOTH.~~

~~(3) A PERSON CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (B)(2) OF THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 10 YEARS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000 OR BOTH.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.