

## Chapter 325

**(Senate Bill 872)**

AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

BY adding to  
 Article – Transportation  
 Section 21–811 ~~and 21–906~~  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

**Article – Transportation**

11–130.

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

21-811.

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

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

~~(H)~~ “SPECIAL EVENT” INCLUDES:

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

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

3. ~~A PARADE;~~

4. ~~A CIRCUS;~~

5. ~~A CONCERT;~~

6. ~~A BLOCK PARTY; AND~~

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

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

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

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

(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN WORCESTER COUNTY.

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

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

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

(2) A LOCAL AUTHORITY MAY:

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

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

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

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

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

~~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 ye 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.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2018.