

# HOUSE BILL 941

R5

1lr2597

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By: **Delegate Wells (By Request – Baltimore City Administration)**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2021

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2021

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

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Baltimore City~~ **Motor Vehicles – Speed Limits – Establishment and Enforcement**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing Baltimore City to ~~establish~~ decrease or raise to a previously  
4 established level the maximum speed limit on a highway under its jurisdiction  
5 without performing an engineering and traffic study; prohibiting a local jurisdiction  
6 from implementing a new speed monitoring system to enforce speed limits on certain  
7 highways; and generally relating to the establishment and enforcement of speed  
8 limits on highways ~~in Baltimore City~~.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

10 Article – Transportation  
11 Section 21–803  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2020 Replacement Volume)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

15 Article – Transportation  
16 Section 21–809(b)(1)(vi)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2020 Replacement Volume)

19 BY adding to

20 Article – Transportation  
21 Section 21–809(b)(1)(xi)  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland

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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 (2020 Replacement Volume)

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

4 **Article – Transportation**

5 21–803.

6 (a) (1) Except as provided in [paragraph ~~(3)~~] **PARAGRAPHS (3) AND (4)** of this  
7 subsection, if, on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, a local authority  
8 determines that any maximum speed limit specified in this subtitle is greater or less than  
9 reasonable or safe under existing conditions on any part of a highway in its jurisdiction, it  
10 may establish a reasonable and safe maximum speed limit for that part of the highway,  
11 which may:

12 (i) Decrease the limit at an intersection;

13 (ii) Increase the limit in an urban district to not more than 50 miles  
14 per hour;

15 (iii) Decrease the limit in an urban district; or

16 (iv) Decrease the limit outside an urban district to not less than 25  
17 miles per hour.

18 (2) An engineering and traffic investigation is not required to conform a  
19 posted maximum speed limit in effect on December 31, 1974, to a different limit specified  
20 in § 21–801.1(b) of this subtitle.

21 (3) Calvert County may decrease the maximum speed limit to not less than  
22 15 miles per hour on Lore Road and, except for Solomons Island Road, each highway south  
23 of Lore Road without performing an engineering and traffic investigation, regardless of  
24 whether the highway is inside an urban district.

25 **(4) BALTIMORE CITY MAY ~~ESTABLISH~~ DECREASE OR RAISE TO A**  
26 **PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED LEVEL THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT ON A HIGHWAY**  
27 **UNDER ITS JURISDICTION WITHOUT PERFORMING AN ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC**  
28 **INVESTIGATION.**

29 (b) In school zones designated and posted by the local authorities of any county:

30 (1) The county may decrease the maximum speed limit to 15 miles per hour  
31 during school hours, provided the county pays the cost of placing and maintaining the  
32 necessary signs; and

1 (2) Any municipality within each county may decrease the maximum speed  
2 limit in a school zone within the municipality to 15 miles per hour during school hours,  
3 provided the municipality pays the cost of placing and maintaining the necessary signs.

4 (c) An altered maximum speed limit established under this section is effective  
5 when posted on appropriate signs giving notice of the limit.

6 (d) Except in Baltimore City, any alteration by a local authority of a maximum  
7 speed limit on a part or extension of a State highway is not effective until it is approved by  
8 the State Highway Administration.

9 (e) (1) If a local authority determines that any maximum speed limit specified  
10 in this subtitle is greater than reasonable or safe in an alley in its jurisdiction, the local  
11 authority may establish a reasonable and safe maximum speed limit for the alley.

12 (2) The local authority shall post a speed limit established under this  
13 subsection on appropriate signs giving notice of the speed limit.

14 21-809.

15 (b) (1) (vi) This section applies to a violation of this subtitle recorded by a  
16 speed monitoring system that meets the requirements of this subsection and has been  
17 placed:

18 1. In Montgomery County, on a highway in a residential  
19 district, as defined in § 21-101 of this title, with a maximum posted speed limit of 35 miles  
20 per hour, which speed limit was established using generally accepted traffic engineering  
21 practices;

22 2. In a school zone with a posted speed limit of at least 20  
23 miles per hour; or

24 3. In Prince George's County:

25 A. Subject to subparagraph (vii) of this paragraph, on  
26 Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway); or

27 B. On that part of a highway located within the grounds of  
28 an institution of higher education as defined in § 10-101(h) of the Education Article, or  
29 within one-half mile of the grounds of a building or property used by the institution of  
30 higher education where generally accepted traffic and engineering practices indicate that  
31 motor vehicle, pedestrian, or bicycle traffic is substantially generated or influenced by the  
32 institution of higher education.

33 (XI) A LOCAL JURISDICTION MAY NOT IMPLEMENT A NEW SPEED  
34 MONITORING SYSTEM TO ENFORCE SPEED LIMITS ON ANY PORTION OF A HIGHWAY

1 FOR WHICH THE SPEED LIMIT HAS BEEN DECREASED WITHOUT PERFORMING AN  
2 ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
4 October 1, 2021.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.