

# HOUSE BILL 434

R5  
HB 941/21 – ENT

2lr2196  
CF SB 520

---

By: **Delegate Wells**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2022

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

---

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2022

---

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

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles – Speed Limits – Establishment and Enforcement**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing Baltimore City to 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 investigation; prohibiting a local  
6 jurisdiction from implementing a new speed monitoring system to enforce speed  
7 limits on certain highways; and generally relating to the establishment and  
8 enforcement of speed limits on highways.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Transportation  
11 Section 21–803  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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 and 2021 Supplement)

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

---

### 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.



(2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

**Article – Transportation**

21–803.

(a) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (3) [and (4)] **THROUGH (5)** of this subsection, if, on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, a local authority determines that any maximum speed limit specified in this subtitle is greater or less than reasonable or safe under existing conditions on any part of a highway in its jurisdiction, it may establish a reasonable and safe maximum speed limit for that part of the highway, which may:

(i) Decrease the limit at an intersection;

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

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

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

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

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

(4) (i) This paragraph applies only to:

1. Montgomery County; and

2. Municipalities located in Montgomery County.

(ii) A local authority may decrease the maximum speed limit to not less than 15 miles per hour on a highway only after performing an engineering and traffic investigation.

1 (iii) A local authority may not implement a new speed monitoring  
2 system to enforce speed limits on any portion of a highway for which the speed limit has  
3 been decreased under this paragraph.

4 **(5) BALTIMORE CITY MAY DECREASE OR RAISE TO A PREVIOUSLY**  
5 **ESTABLISHED LEVEL THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT ON A HIGHWAY UNDER ITS**  
6 **JURISDICTION WITHOUT PERFORMING AN ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC**  
7 **INVESTIGATION.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 21-809.

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

29 1. In Montgomery County or Prince George's County, on a  
30 highway in a residential district, as defined in § 21-101 of this title, with a maximum posted  
31 speed limit of 35 miles per hour, which speed limit was established using generally accepted  
32 traffic engineering practices;

33 2. In a school zone with a posted speed limit of at least 20  
34 miles per hour;

## HOUSE BILL 434

1                                   3.     In Prince George’s County:

2                                   A.     Subject to subparagraph (vii)1 of this paragraph, on  
3 Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway); or

4                                   B.     On that part of a highway located within the grounds of  
5 an institution of higher education as defined in § 10–101(h) of the Education Article, or  
6 within one-half mile of the grounds of a building or property used by the institution of  
7 higher education where generally accepted traffic and engineering practices indicate that  
8 motor vehicle, pedestrian, or bicycle traffic is substantially generated or influenced by the  
9 institution of higher education;

10                                  4.     Subject to subparagraph (vii)2 of this paragraph, on  
11 Interstate 83 in Baltimore City; or

12                                  5.     In Anne Arundel County, on Maryland Route 175 (Jessup  
13 Road) between the Maryland Route 175/295 interchange and the Anne Arundel  
14 County–Howard County line.

15                                  **(XI) A LOCAL JURISDICTION MAY NOT IMPLEMENT A NEW SPEED**  
16 **MONITORING SYSTEM TO ENFORCE SPEED LIMITS ON ANY PORTION OF A HIGHWAY**  
17 **FOR WHICH THE SPEED LIMIT HAS BEEN DECREASED WITHOUT PERFORMING AN**  
18 **ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION.**

19                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 October 1, 2022.

Approved:

---

Governor.

---

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

---

President of the Senate.