

HOUSE BILL 278

R5

4lr1650

By: **Delegate Kerr**

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 20, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Urban State Highways – Speed Limits – Exceptions**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the State Highway Administration to decrease the
4 maximum speed limit by a certain amount on certain urban State highways without
5 an engineering and traffic investigation; and generally relating to speed limits on
6 urban State highways.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Transportation
9 Section 8–630(a)(1) and (3)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Transportation
14 Section 21–802
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Transportation**

20 8–630.

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 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

2 (3) "Urban highway" means a highway, other than an expressway, that is:

3 (i) 1. Constructed with a curb and gutter and an enclosed type
4 storm drainage system;

5 2. Located in an urban area and on which is located a public
6 facility that creates appreciable pedestrian traffic along the highway from adjacent areas;

7 3. Located within urban boundaries as defined by the U.S.
8 Census Bureau; or

9 4. Located within the boundaries of a municipal corporation;
10 and

11 (ii) Part of the State highway system.

12 21-802.

13 (a) If, on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, the State Highway
14 Administration determines that any maximum speed limit specified in this subtitle is
15 greater or less than reasonable or safe under existing conditions on any part of a highway
16 under its jurisdiction, it may establish a reasonable and safe maximum speed limit for that
17 part of the highway.

18 (b) An engineering and traffic investigation is not required [to]:

19 (1) TO conform a posted maximum speed limit in effect on December 31,
20 1974, to a different limit specified in § 21-801.1(b) of this subtitle; OR

21 (2) FOR THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION TO DECREASE BY 5
22 MILES PER HOUR THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT AUTHORIZED UNDER § 21-801.1(B)(2)
23 AND (3) OF THIS SUBTITLE ON ANY URBAN HIGHWAY, AS DEFINED IN § 8-630 OF THIS
24 ARTICLE, UNDER ITS JURISDICTION.

25 (c) Under this section, the State Highway Administration may:

26 (1) Establish a maximum speed limit to apply at all times or only at
27 specified times; and

28 (2) Establish differing limits for different times of day, different types of
29 vehicles, different weather conditions, or other factors bearing on safe speeds.

30 (d) An altered maximum speed limit established under this section is effective

1 when posted on appropriate signs giving notice of the limit.

2 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
3 October 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.