

SENATE BILL 44

R5
SB 68/24 – JPR

(PRE-FILED)

5lr0895

By: **Senators Carozza, Gile, James, Jennings, Klausmeier, Muse, Watson, and West**
Requested: September 19, 2024
Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Reckless and Negligent Driving – Death of Another – Must-Appear Violation**
3 **(Sherry and Christian’s Law)**

4 FOR the purpose of providing that a person charged with reckless or negligent driving that
5 contributes to an accident that results in the death of another person must appear
6 in court and may not prepay the fine; authorizing a court to waive the requirement
7 to appear under certain circumstances; and generally relating to reckless and
8 negligent driving.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Transportation
11 Section 21–901.1
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Transportation**

17 21–901.1.

18 (a) A person is guilty of reckless driving if he drives a motor vehicle:

19 (1) In wanton or willful disregard for the safety of persons or property; or

20 (2) In a manner that indicates a wanton or willful disregard for the safety
21 of persons or property.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) A person is guilty of negligent driving if he drives a motor vehicle in a careless
2 or imprudent manner that endangers any property or the life or person of any individual.

3 (c) **(1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A**
4 **PERSON CHARGED WITH A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION THAT CONTRIBUTES TO AN**
5 **ACCIDENT THAT RESULTS IN THE DEATH OF ANOTHER:**

6 (i) **MUST APPEAR IN COURT; AND**

7 (ii) **MAY NOT PREPAY THE FINE.**

8 **(2) AFTER A COURT HAS ISSUED A WRIT SETTING THE DATE, TIME,**
9 **AND PLACE FOR THE PERSON TO APPEAR, THE COURT MAY, FOR GOOD CAUSE**
10 **SHOWN:**

11 (i) **WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT TO APPEAR IN COURT; AND**

12 (ii) **ALLOW THE PERSON TO ENTER A PLEA OF GUILTY AND**
13 **PREPAY THE FINE.**

14 **(D)** A person convicted of a violation of subsection (a) of this section is subject to a
15 fine not exceeding \$1,000.

16 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect
17 **October 1, 2025.**