

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 234 (Delegate Stein)
Environment and Transportation

Vehicle Laws - Injury or Death of Vulnerable Individual - Penalties

This bill alters the penalty for the existing offense of causing the serious physical injury or death of a “vulnerable individual” by motor vehicle from a fine of up to \$2,000 to *imprisonment for up to two months and/or* a fine of up to \$2,000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Pursuant to Chapters 165 and 166 of 2021, an individual may not cause the serious physical injury or death of a “vulnerable individual” as a result of their operation of a motor vehicle in violation of any rule of the road specified in the Maryland Vehicle Law. A violator is guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to a maximum fine of \$2,000. An individual who is charged with this offense must appear in court and may not prepay the fine.

The court may, in addition to imposing a fine, order a violator to participate in a motor vehicle safety course and perform up to 150 hours of community service. The Motor Vehicle Administration must suspend the driver’s license of an individual convicted of this offense for at least seven days and up to six months.

“Vulnerable individual” means (1) a pedestrian, including an individual who is lawfully working on a highway or utility facility along a highway, providing emergency services on a highway, or on a sidewalk or footpath; (2) an individual who is lawfully riding or leading an animal on a highway, shoulder, crosswalk, or sidewalk; or (3) an individual who is lawfully operating or riding – on a highway, shoulder, crosswalk, or sidewalk – a bicycle, farm tractor or other farm equipment, play vehicle, motor scooter, motorcycle, animal-drawn vehicle, electric personal assistive mobility device, or wheelchair.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 385 (Senators Love and Gile) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of Counties; Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Maryland State’s Attorneys’ Association; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 2025
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