

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 915

Judicial Proceedings

(Baltimore County Senators)

Environment and Transportation

**Baltimore County - Vehicle Laws - Private Roadways in Residential
Communities**

This bill specifically prohibits a person from violating any provision of the Maryland Vehicle Law while driving on a private roadway located within the Queen Anne Village community in Owings Mills from October 1, 2025, through July 1, 2028. During this period, a police officer in Baltimore County may enforce the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law on any private roadway in the Queen Anne Village community that is used for vehicular travel by residents of the community. By September 1, 2028, the Baltimore County Police Department (BCPD) must report to the Baltimore County Delegation of the General Assembly on implementation of the bill and whether it has improved compliance with the Maryland Vehicle Law in the Queen Anne Village community. **The bill terminates September 30, 2028.**

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: Baltimore County can likely conduct enforcement with existing resources, as discussed below. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: In general, a driver is only subject to the Maryland Vehicle Law when driving a vehicle on a State “highway” (as defined under § 11-127 of the Transportation Article). However, a person is still subject to the Maryland Vehicle Law while driving

(1) on any private property that is used by the public in general; (2) in Calvert County *only*, on a private road located within a residential subdivision or community, or (3) in any place other than a highway that is specifically provided for under State law.

A police officer is authorized to enforce the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law, or applicable local traffic laws or regulations, on any highway in the State. Additionally, a police officer is authorized, in Calvert County *only*, to enforce the Maryland Vehicle Law on a private roadway located within a residential subdivision or community that is used for vehicular travel by residents.

Local Fiscal Effect: BCPD advises that it needs to hire a few additional police officers to enforce the bill. However, the Department of Legislative Services advises that the enforcement provisions of the bill are *authorizing* in nature. Thus, BCPD is not *required* to conduct additional enforcement. Furthermore, due to the bill's limited application to private roadways in a single residential community for a limited period of time, this analysis assumes that BCPD incorporates any enforcement it chooses to undertake into its existing traffic enforcement operations using existing officers.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 528 (Baltimore County Delegation) - Environment and Transportation.

Information Source(s): Baltimore County; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2025
caw/aad
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