

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1236 (Delegate Arentz, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Judicial Proceedings

Queen Anne's County - Municipalities - Speed Limits

This bill authorizes a municipality located in Queen Anne’s County to decrease the maximum speed limit to not less than 15 miles per hour (MPH) on a highway without performing an engineering and traffic investigation.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund revenues may increase minimally due to more citations for speeding, assuming any municipalities in Queen Anne’s County use the authorization granted by the bill to decrease speed limits when they would not have done so absent the bill. The District Court can handle any additional caseload with existing resources.

Local Effect: Within Queen Anne’s County, municipal expenditures decrease minimally to the extent that fewer engineering and traffic investigations are conducted to lower speed limits. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law:

Speed Limits – Generally

Unless there is a special danger that requires a lower speed, the maximum lawful speeds on a State highway are (1) 15 MPH in alleys in Baltimore County; (2) 30 MPH on all highways in a business district and on undivided highways in a residential district;

(3) 35 MPH on divided highways in a residential district; (4) 50 MPH on undivided highways in other locations; and (5) 55 MPH on divided highways in other locations. A maximum speed limit of more than 55 MPH may not be established on any highway in the State that is not an interstate highway or an expressway, and a maximum speed limit of more than 70 MPH may not be established on any highway in the State.

If, on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, a local authority determines that a maximum speed is greater or less than is reasonable or safe under existing conditions on any part of a highway in its jurisdiction, the local authority may establish a reasonable and safe maximum speed limit for that part of the highway, which may:

- decrease the limit at an intersection;
- increase the limit in an urban district to no more than 50 MPH;
- decrease the speed limit in an urban district; or
- decrease the limit outside an urban district to no less than 25 MPH.

An engineering and traffic investigation is not required to conform a speed limit in effect on December 31, 1974, to one of the specified speed limits established by statute.

Altered Speed Limits

Anne Arundel and Montgomery counties and municipalities within the counties may decrease the maximum speed limit to no less than 15 MPH on a highway but only after performing an engineering and traffic investigation. However, a local authority may not implement a *new* speed monitoring system to enforce speed limits on any portion of a highway for which the speed limit has been decreased pursuant to this authorization.

Calvert County is authorized to decrease the maximum speed limit to no less than 15 MPH 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.

Altered speed limits are effective when posted on appropriate signs giving notice of the limit. Any alteration by a local authority (except in Baltimore City) of a maximum speed limit on a part (or extension) of a State highway is not effective until approved by the State Highway Administration.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation; Queen Anne's County; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 2025
km/aad Third Reader - March 17, 2025

Analysis by: Richard L. Duncan

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510