

# HOUSE BILL 1169

R5

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By: **Howard County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Howard County – Highways – Speed Limits**

3 **Ho. Co. 8–26**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing Howard County to decrease the maximum speed limit to  
5 not less than a certain speed on highways after performing an engineering and traffic  
6 investigation; prohibiting Howard County from implementing a new speed  
7 monitoring system to enforce speed limits on highways on which the speed limit has  
8 been reduced under this Act; and generally relating to the establishment of speed  
9 limits on highways in Howard County.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – Transportation  
12 Section 21–801.1(a) through (d)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article – Transportation  
17 Section 21–803(a)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Transportation**

23 21–801.1.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) Unless there is a special danger that requires a lower speed to comply with §  
2 21–801 of this subtitle, the limits specified in this section or otherwise established under  
3 this subtitle are maximum lawful speeds. A person may not drive a vehicle on a highway  
4 at a speed that exceeds these limits.

5 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the maximum speed limits are:

6 (1) 15 miles per hour in alleys in Baltimore County;

7 (2) 30 miles per hour on:

8 (i) All highways in a business district; and

9 (ii) Undivided highways in a residential district;

10 (3) 35 miles per hour on divided highways in a residential district;

11 (4) 50 miles per hour on undivided highways in other locations; and

12 (5) 55 miles per hour on divided highways in other locations.

13 (c) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a posted maximum speed  
14 limit lawfully in effect on December 31, 1974, is a maximum lawful speed even if it differs  
15 from a limit specified in subsection (b) of this section.

16 (d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a maximum speed limit  
17 specified in subsection (b) of this section or in effect under subsection (c) of this section may  
18 be altered as provided in this subtitle.

19 21–803.

20 (a) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (3) through (6) of this subsection, if,  
21 on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, a local authority determines that  
22 any maximum speed limit specified in this subtitle is greater or less than reasonable or  
23 safe under existing conditions on any part of a highway in its jurisdiction, it may establish  
24 a reasonable and safe maximum speed limit for that part of the highway, which may:

25 (i) Decrease the limit at an intersection;

26 (ii) Increase the limit in an urban district to not more than 50 miles  
27 per hour;

28 (iii) Decrease the limit in an urban district; or

29 (iv) Decrease the limit outside an urban district to not less than 25  
30 miles per hour.

1           (2)    An engineering and traffic investigation is not required to conform a  
2 posted maximum speed limit in effect on December 31, 1974, to a different limit specified  
3 in § 21–801.1(b) of this subtitle.

4           (3)    Calvert County may decrease the maximum speed limit to not less than  
5 15 miles per hour on Lore Road and, except for Solomons Island Road, each highway south  
6 of Lore Road without performing an engineering and traffic investigation, regardless of  
7 whether the highway is inside an urban district.

8           (4)    (i)    This paragraph applies only to:

9                           1.    Anne Arundel County, **HOWARD COUNTY**, and  
10 Montgomery County; and

11                           2.    Municipalities located in Anne Arundel County and  
12 Montgomery County.

13                   (ii)   A local authority may decrease the maximum speed limit to not  
14 less than 15 miles per hour on a highway only after performing an engineering and traffic  
15 investigation.

16                   (iii)   A local authority may not implement a new speed monitoring  
17 system to enforce speed limits on any portion of a highway for which the speed limit has  
18 been decreased under this paragraph.

19           (5)    Baltimore City may, without performing an engineering and traffic  
20 investigation:

21                   (i)    Decrease the maximum speed limit on a highway under its  
22 jurisdiction; or

23                   (ii)   Increase to a previously established level the maximum speed  
24 limit on a highway under its jurisdiction.

25           (6)    A municipality located in Queen Anne’s County may decrease the  
26 maximum speed limit to not less than 15 miles per hour on a highway without performing  
27 an engineering and traffic investigation.

28           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
29 October 1, 2026.