Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 914 (Senator Mautz)
Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Causing Serious Injury or Death of Vulnerable Individual

This bill alters the definition of "vulnerable individual" to exclude an individual who is riding a motorcycle for purposes of the prohibition on causing the serious physical injury or death of a vulnerable individual as a result of operating a motor vehicle in violation of any provision of Title 21 of the Transportation Article (Rules of the Road).

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:

Serious Physical Injury or Death of a Vulnerable Individual Caused by Motor Vehicle

Pursuant to § 21-901.3 of the Transportation Article, 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 provision in Title 21 of the Transportation Article (Rules of the Road). 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.

A court may, in addition to imposing any other penalties, 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 actively 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 farm equipment, play vehicle, motor scooter, *motorcycle*, animal-drawn vehicle, electric personal assistive mobility device, or wheelchair.

Additional Comments: The Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts) advises that, in fiscal 2025, there were 25 violations issued to individuals for causing the serious physical injury or death of vulnerable individual as the result of the individual operating a motor vehicle in violation of Title 21 of the Transportation Article, with five guilty dispositions. However, the exact number of these violations, if any, that involved a motorcycle is unknown.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 1496 (Delegate Adams, *et al.*) - Environment and Transportation.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

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