

Chapter 166

**(Senate Bill 293)**

AN ACT concerning

**Vehicle Laws – Injury or Death of Vulnerable Individual – Penalties**

FOR the purpose of prohibiting an individual from causing the serious physical injury or death of a certain vulnerable individual as a result of the individual operating a vehicle in violation of certain provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law; establishing certain penalties for a violation of this Act; establishing that an individual charged with a violation of this Act must appear in court and may not prepay the fine; requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to suspend for a certain amount of time the driver’s license of an individual convicted of a violation of this Act; defining the term “vulnerable individual” for purposes of this Act; and generally relating to penalties for causing the serious physical injury or death of a vulnerable individual.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Transportation  
Section 11–101 and 11–145  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2020 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to

Article – Transportation  
Section 21–901.3  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2020 Replacement Volume)

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

**Article – Transportation**

11–101.

In the Maryland Vehicle Law, the following words have the meanings indicated, unless the context requires otherwise.

11–145.

“Pedestrian” means an individual afoot.

**21–901.3.**

**(A) IN THIS SECTION, “VULNERABLE INDIVIDUAL” MEANS:**

**(1) A PEDESTRIAN, INCLUDING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO ~~IS~~ IS LAWFULLY:**

**(I) ACTIVELY WORKING ON A HIGHWAY OR A UTILITY FACILITY ALONG A HIGHWAY;**

**(II) PROVIDING EMERGENCY SERVICES ON A HIGHWAY; OR**

**(III) 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 ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ON A HIGHWAY, SHOULDER, CROSSWALK, OR SIDEWALK:**

**(I) A BICYCLE;**

**(II) A FARM TRACTOR OR FARM EQUIPMENT;**

**(III) A PLAY VEHICLE;**

**(IV) A MOTOR SCOOTER;**

**(V) A MOTORCYCLE;**

**(VI) AN ANIMAL–DRAWN VEHICLE;**

**(VII) AN EPAMD; OR**

**(VIII) A WHEELCHAIR.**

**(B) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT CAUSE THE SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY OR DEATH OF A VULNERABLE INDIVIDUAL AS A RESULT OF THE INDIVIDUAL OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE IN VIOLATION OF ANY PROVISION OF THIS TITLE.**

**(C) (1) AN INDIVIDUAL CHARGED WITH A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION:**

**(I) MUST APPEAR IN COURT; AND**

**(II) MAY NOT PREPAY THE FINE.**

**(2) AN INDIVIDUAL CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$2,000.**

**(D) IN ADDITION TO THE PENALTIES PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE COURT MAY ORDER AN INDIVIDUAL CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION TO:**

**(1) PARTICIPATE IN A MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY COURSE; AND**

**(2) PERFORM UP TO 150 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE.**

**(E) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL SUSPEND THE DRIVER'S LICENSE OF AN INDIVIDUAL CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION FOR AT LEAST 7 DAYS BUT NOT MORE THAN 6 MONTHS.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.

**Approved by the Governor, May 18, 2021.**