

# SENATE BILL 520

R5

2lr2197  
CF HB 434

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By: **Senator Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2022

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 2022

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles – Speed Limits – Establishment and Enforcement**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing Baltimore City to decrease or raise to a previously  
4 established level the maximum speed limit on a highway under its jurisdiction  
5 without performing an engineering and traffic investigation; prohibiting a local  
6 jurisdiction from ~~implementing a new~~ using a speed monitoring system to enforce  
7 speed limits on certain highways; and generally relating to the establishment and  
8 enforcement of speed limits on highways.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Transportation  
11 Section 21–803  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
15 Article – Transportation  
16 Section 21–809(b)(1)(vi)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

19 BY adding to  
20 Article – Transportation  
21 Section 21–809(b)(1)(xi)  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



(2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

**Article – Transportation**

21–803.

(a) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (3) [and (4)] **THROUGH (5)** of this subsection, if, on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, a local authority determines that any maximum speed limit specified in this subtitle is greater or less than reasonable or safe under existing conditions on any part of a highway in its jurisdiction, it may establish a reasonable and safe maximum speed limit for that part of the highway, which may:

(i) Decrease the limit at an intersection;

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

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

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

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

(3) Calvert County may decrease the maximum speed limit to not less than 15 miles per hour 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.

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

1. Montgomery County; and

2. Municipalities located in Montgomery County.

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

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

4 **(5) BALTIMORE CITY ~~MAY DECREASE OR RAISE TO A PREVIOUSLY~~**  
5 **~~ESTABLISHED LEVEL THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT ON A HIGHWAY UNDER ITS~~**  
6 **~~JURISDICTION WITHOUT PERFORMING AN ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC~~**  
7 **~~INVESTIGATION~~ MAY, WITHOUT PERFORMING AN ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC**  
8 **INVESTIGATION:**

9 **(I) DECREASE THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT ON A HIGHWAY**  
10 **UNDER ITS JURISDICTION; OR**

11 **(II) INCREASE TO A PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED LEVEL THE**  
12 **MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT ON A HIGHWAY UNDER ITS JURISDICTION.**

13 (b) In school zones designated and posted by the local authorities of any county:

14 (1) The county may decrease the maximum speed limit to 15 miles per hour  
15 during school hours, provided the county pays the cost of placing and maintaining the  
16 necessary signs; and

17 (2) Any municipality within each county may decrease the maximum speed  
18 limit in a school zone within the municipality to 15 miles per hour during school hours,  
19 provided the municipality pays the cost of placing and maintaining the necessary signs.

20 (c) An altered maximum speed limit established under this section is effective  
21 when posted on appropriate signs giving notice of the limit.

22 (d) Except in Baltimore City, any alteration by a local authority of a maximum  
23 speed limit on a part or extension of a State highway is not effective until it is approved by  
24 the State Highway Administration.

25 (e) (1) If a local authority determines that any maximum speed limit specified  
26 in this subtitle is greater than reasonable or safe in an alley in its jurisdiction, the local  
27 authority may establish a reasonable and safe maximum speed limit for the alley.

28 (2) The local authority shall post a speed limit established under this  
29 subsection on appropriate signs giving notice of the speed limit.

30 21-809.

31 (b) (1) (vi) This section applies to a violation of this subtitle recorded by a  
32 speed monitoring system that meets the requirements of this subsection and has been  
33 placed:

1                                   1.     In Montgomery County or Prince George’s County, on a  
2 highway in a residential district, as defined in § 21–101 of this title, with a maximum posted  
3 speed limit of 35 miles per hour, which speed limit was established using generally accepted  
4 traffic engineering practices;

5                                   2.     In a school zone with a posted speed limit of at least 20  
6 miles per hour;

7                                   3.     In Prince George’s County:

8                                   A.     Subject to subparagraph (vii)<sup>1</sup> of this paragraph, on  
9 Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway); or

10                                  B.     On that part of a highway located within the grounds of  
11 an institution of higher education as defined in § 10–101(h) of the Education Article, or  
12 within one-half mile of the grounds of a building or property used by the institution of  
13 higher education where generally accepted traffic and engineering practices indicate that  
14 motor vehicle, pedestrian, or bicycle traffic is substantially generated or influenced by the  
15 institution of higher education;

16                                  4.     Subject to subparagraph (vii)<sup>2</sup> of this paragraph, on  
17 Interstate 83 in Baltimore City; or

18                                  5.     In Anne Arundel County, on Maryland Route 175 (Jessup  
19 Road) between the Maryland Route 175/295 interchange and the Anne Arundel  
20 County–Howard County line.

21                                  **(XI) A LOCAL JURISDICTION MAY NOT ~~IMPLEMENT A NEW USE A~~**  
22 **SPEED MONITORING SYSTEM TO ENFORCE SPEED LIMITS ON ANY PORTION OF A**  
23 **HIGHWAY FOR WHICH THE SPEED LIMIT HAS BEEN DECREASED WITHOUT**  
24 **PERFORMING AN ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION.**

25                                  SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
26 October 1, 2022.