

HOUSE BILL 1169

R5

6lr0959

By: **Howard County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 26, 2026

CHAPTER _____

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:

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.



Article – Transportation

1

2 21–801.1.

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

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

8 (1) 15 miles per hour in alleys in Baltimore County;

9 (2) 30 miles per hour on:

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

11 (ii) Undivided highways in a residential district;

12 (3) 35 miles per hour on divided highways in a residential district;

13 (4) 50 miles per hour on undivided highways in other locations; and

14 (5) 55 miles per hour on divided highways in other locations.

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

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

21 21–803.

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

27 (i) Decrease the limit at an intersection;

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

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

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

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

7 (3) Calvert County may decrease the maximum speed limit to not less than
8 15 miles per hour on Lore Road and, except for Solomons Island Road, each highway south
9 of Lore Road without performing an engineering and traffic investigation, regardless of
10 whether the highway is inside an urban district.

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

12 1. Anne Arundel County, **HOWARD COUNTY**, and
13 Montgomery County; and

14 2. Municipalities located in Anne Arundel County and
15 Montgomery County.

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

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

22 (5) Baltimore City may, without performing an engineering and traffic
23 investigation:

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

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

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

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