

HOUSE BILL 234

R5

(PRE-FILED)

5lr0746
CF SB 385

By: ~~Delegate Stein~~ **Delegates Stein, Boyce, Healey, and R. Lewis**

Requested: September 6, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

3 FOR the purpose of altering the penalties for causing the serious physical injury or death
4 of a vulnerable individual as the result of an individual operating a motor vehicle in
5 ~~violation of certain provisions of law~~ a certain manner; including an individual who
6 is lawfully operating or riding a golf cart or a unicycle on a highway, shoulder,
7 crosswalk, or sidewalk as a vulnerable individual; and generally relating to penalties
8 for causing the serious physical injury or death of a vulnerable individual.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Transportation
11 Section 21–901.3
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Transportation**

17 21–901.3.

18 (a) In this section, “vulnerable individual” means:

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.



(1) A pedestrian, including an individual who 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 **OR UNICYCLE**;

(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; **OR**

(IX) A GOLF CART.

(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~~:

(1) IN A NEGLIGENT MANNER; AND

(2) 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.~~

1 ~~(2)~~ An individual convicted of a violation of subsection (b) of this section is
2 subject to **IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 2 MONTHS OR** a fine not exceeding \$2,000
3 **OR BOTH.**

4 (d) In addition to the penalties provided under subsection (c) of this section, the
5 court may order an individual convicted of a violation of subsection (b) of this section to:

6 (1) Participate in a motor vehicle safety course; and

7 (2) Perform up to 150 hours of community service.

8 (e) The Administration shall suspend the driver's license of an individual
9 convicted of a violation of subsection (b) of this section for at least 7 days but not more than
10 6 months.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.