

SENATE BILL 385

R5

5lr1714
CF HB 234

By: **Senators Love and Gile**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

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; and generally relating to penalties for causing
6 the serious physical injury or death of a vulnerable individual.

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

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

14 **Article – Transportation**

15 21–901.3.

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

17 (1) A pedestrian, including an individual who is lawfully:

18 (i) Actively working on a highway or a utility facility along a
19 highway;

20 (ii) Providing emergency services on a highway; or

21 (iii) On a sidewalk or footpath;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(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 **IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 2 MONTHS OR** a fine not exceeding \$2,000 **OR BOTH.**

(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.

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