

SENATE BILL 11

R5

3lr1082

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Sydnor**

Requested: November 15, 2022

Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2023

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 15, 2023

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles – ~~Speed Limits~~ – Establishment of School Zones**

3 FOR the purpose of ~~altering the radius around certain schools within which a school zone~~
4 ~~may be established and speed monitoring systems may be placed and used; requiring~~
5 a school zone to be adjacent to a school, unless recommended by a traffic engineering
6 study; prohibiting a school zone from exceeding a certain radius of any school or
7 school activity, unless recommended by a traffic engineering study; and generally
8 relating to ~~the enforcement of speed limits in~~ establishing school zones.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

10 Article – Transportation

11 Section 21–803.1 and 21–809(a)(7)

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

15 Article – Transportation

16 Section 21–809(a)(1) and (8) and (b)(1)(vi)2.

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

20 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

21–803.1.

(a) **(1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

(2) “SCHOOL” MEANS AN ACCREDITED PUBLIC, PAROCHIAL, OR PRIVATE LEARNING INSTITUTION OFFERING INSTRUCTION IN ANY GRADE FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12.

(3) “SCHOOL GROUNDS” MEANS SCHOOL PROPERTY THAT STUDENTS ROUTINELY OCCUPY WITHIN A SCHOOL ZONE.

(4) “SCHOOL–RELATED ACTIVITY” MEANS:

(i) TRAVEL BY STUDENTS TO OR FROM SCHOOL ON FOOT OR BY BICYCLE; OR

(ii) THE DROPPING OFF OR PICKING UP OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL BUSES OR OTHER VEHICLES.

(5) “SCHOOL ZONE” MEANS A DESIGNATED ROADWAY SEGMENT WITHIN UP TO A 0.5–MILE RADIUS OF A SCHOOL:

(i) APPROACHING, ADJACENT TO, AND BEYOND SCHOOL GROUNDS, OR IN AN AREA WHERE SCHOOL–RELATED ACTIVITY OCCURS;

(ii) ESTABLISHED BY OFFICIAL ACTION BY THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION OR A LOCAL AUTHORITY; AND

(iii) THAT IS APPROPRIATELY DESIGNATED BY SIGNS POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH:

1. THE MARYLAND MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES; AND

2. STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION GUIDANCE.

(B) (1) Subject to ~~subsection (f)~~ PARAGRAPH (3) of this ~~section~~ SUBSECTION, within a [half–mile] ~~0.1–MILE~~ 0.5–MILE radius of any school, the State Highway Administration or a local authority:

(i) May establish a school zone and maximum speed limits applicable in the school zone; and

(ii) Subject to subsection ~~(d)~~ **(E)** of this section, may provide that fines are to be doubled for speeding violations within the school zone.

(2) (i) The State Highway Administration may establish a school zone under paragraph (1) of this subsection on any State highway or, at the request of a local authority, on any highway under the jurisdiction of the local authority.

(ii) A local authority may establish a school zone under paragraph (1) of this subsection on any highway under its jurisdiction.

(iii) In Prince George's County, a municipal corporation may establish a school zone under paragraph (1) of this subsection on any highway that:

1. Is not under State jurisdiction; and
2. Is located within the corporate limits of the municipal corporation.

(3) (I) UNLESS OTHERWISE RECOMMENDED BY A TRAFFIC ENGINEERING STUDY, A SCHOOL ZONE:

- 1. SHALL BE ADJACENT TO THE SCHOOL; AND**
- 2. MAY NOT EXCEED 500 FEET APPROACHING OR BEYOND THE SCHOOL BUILDING OR SCHOOL GROUNDS.**

(II) IN ANY SCHOOL ZONE WHERE A SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD IS POSTED TO ASSIST STUDENTS IN CROSSING A HIGHWAY, THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT MAY NOT EXCEED 35 MILES PER HOUR IN THE SCHOOL ZONE DURING THE HOURS POSTED ON SIGNS DESIGNATING THE SCHOOL ZONE.

~~(b)~~ **(C)** (1) On each highway where a school zone is established under this section, in accordance with specifications of the State Highway Administration, the State Highway Administration or local authority:

- (i) Shall place signs designating the school zone; and
- (ii) May place other traffic control devices, including timed flashing warning lights.

(2) The signs designating a school zone shall indicate the maximum speed limit applicable in the school zone.

(3) The local authority shall pay the State Highway Administration the cost of placing and maintaining signs and other traffic control devices on highways under

the jurisdiction of the local authority when the State Highway Administration establishes the school zone at the local authority's request.

(4) In Prince George's County, a municipal corporation shall be responsible for the cost of placing and maintaining signs and other traffic control devices for a school zone that the municipal corporation establishes on a highway within its corporate limits.

~~(e)~~ **(D)** A maximum speed limit in a school zone established under this section is in effect when posted on appropriate signs giving notice of the limit.

~~(d)~~ **(E)** The fines for speeding in a school zone are double the amount that would otherwise apply if, in accordance with specifications adopted by the State Highway Administration:

(1) (i) A sign designating a school zone under this section is equipped with timed flashing warning lights and indicates that fines for speeding are doubled when the lights are activated; and

(ii) The lights are activated at the time the violation occurs; or

(2) A sign designating a school zone under this section indicates that fines for speeding are doubled during school hours.

~~(e)~~ **(F)** A person may not drive a motor vehicle at a speed exceeding the posted speed limit within a school zone established in accordance with subsection ~~(d)~~ **(E)** of this section.

~~(f) In any school zone where a school crossing guard is posted to assist students in crossing a highway, the maximum speed limit may not exceed 35 miles per hour in the school zone during the hours posted on signs designating the school zone.~~

(g) A person convicted of a violation of subsection ~~(e)~~ **(F)** of this section is subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

21-809.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(7) "School zone" ~~means a designated roadway segment within up to a [half mile] 0.1 MILE radius of a school for any of grades kindergarten through grade 12 where school-related activity occurs, including:~~

~~(i) Travel by students to or from school on foot or by bicycle; or~~

~~(ii) The dropping off or picking up of students by school buses or other vehicles~~ **HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 21-803.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

(8) “Speed monitoring system” means a device with one or more motor vehicle sensors producing recorded images of motor vehicles traveling at speeds at least 12 miles per hour above the posted speed limit.

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

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.