

# SENATE BILL 854

R5  
HB 780/19 – ENT

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By: **Senator Sydnor (By Request – Baltimore City Administration)**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Baltimore City – Speed Limits – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing Baltimore City to establish the maximum speed limit on a  
4 highway under its jurisdiction without performing an engineering and traffic study;  
5 and generally relating to the establishment of speed limits on highways in Baltimore  
6 City.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Transportation  
9 Section 21–803  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 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 21–803.

16 (a) (1) **[If] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS**  
17 **SUBSECTION, IF**, on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, a local authority  
18 determines that any maximum speed limit specified in this subtitle is greater or less than  
19 reasonable or safe under existing conditions on any part of a highway in its jurisdiction, it  
20 may establish a reasonable and safe maximum speed limit for that part of the highway,  
21 which may:

22 (i) Decrease the limit at an intersection;

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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) BALTIMORE CITY MAY ESTABLISH THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT ON A HIGHWAY UNDER ITS JURISDICTION WITHOUT PERFORMING AN ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.