

SENATE BILL 297

R5
SB 55/18 – JPR

(PRE-FILED)

1lr1042

By: **Senator Benson**

Requested: October 20, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Speed Restrictions – Expressways and Interstate Highways**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that the maximum speed limit for all expressways and
4 interstate highways that connect with Interstate 495 in the State be the same as for
5 Interstate 495 at the point of connection for a certain distance from the point of
6 entrance to or exit from Interstate 495; requiring the State Highway Administration
7 to post notice of the maximum speed limit for an expressway at intervals of no
8 greater than a certain distance; and generally relating to speed restrictions on
9 expressways and interstate highways.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Transportation
12 Section 21–801.1
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2020 Replacement Volume)

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

17 **Article – Transportation**

18 21–801.1.

19 (a) Unless there is a special danger that requires a lower speed to comply with §
20 21–801 of this subtitle, the limits specified in this section or otherwise established under
21 this subtitle are maximum lawful speeds. A person may not drive a vehicle on a highway
22 at a speed that exceeds these limits.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

2 (2) 30 miles per hour on:

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

4 (ii) Undivided highways in a residential district;

5 (3) 35 miles per hour on divided highways in a residential district;

6 (4) 50 miles per hour on undivided highways in other locations; and

7 (5) 55 miles per hour on divided highways in other locations.

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

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

14 (e) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, a maximum speed
15 limit of more than 55 miles per hour may not be established or continued on any highway
16 in this State that is not an interstate highway or an expressway.

17 (2) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection, a
18 maximum speed limit of more than 70 miles per hour may not be established on any
19 highway in the State.

20 (f) (1) Unless otherwise posted on a public road in a residential subdivision,
21 in residential subdivisions in St. Mary's County, a posted speed limit on a main access road
22 applies to all public roads in the residential subdivision, even if the posted speed limit on
23 the main access road is less than 30 miles per hour.

24 (2) The provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection do not apply when a
25 through road traverses a residential subdivision. The maximum speed limit applicable to
26 the subdivision shall be posted on each road exiting off the through road and into the
27 subdivision, along with the posting on the main access road.

28 (3) A maximum speed limit established under this subsection in a
29 residential subdivision shall be based on the subdivision's road design, motor vehicle traffic,
30 and pedestrian safety.

31 **(G) ALL EXPRESSWAYS AND INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS THAT CONNECT WITH**
32 **INTERSTATE 495 IN THE STATE SHALL HAVE THE SAME MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT AS**
33 **INTERSTATE 495 AT THE POINT OF CONNECTION FOR AT LEAST 5 MILES FROM THE**

1 **POINT OF ENTRANCE TO OR EXIT FROM INTERSTATE 495.**

2 **(H) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL POST NOTICE OF THE MAXIMUM SPEED**
3 **LIMIT ON AN EXPRESSWAY AT INTERVALS OF NO GREATER THAN 5 MILES.**

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2021.