

HOUSE BILL 789

R5

EMERGENCY BILL

9lr2548
CF SB 682

By: **Delegates Hartman and Otto**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Special Event Zones in Worcester County – Penalties**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a certain penalty for certain violations of the Maryland
4 Vehicle Law committed within a special event zone in Worcester County; making
5 this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to special event zones in
6 Worcester County.

7 BY repealing

8 Article – Transportation

9 Section 21–811

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

13 Article – Transportation

14 Section 21–901.1, 21–1116, and 21–1117

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

17 BY adding to

18 Article – Transportation

19 Section 21–1132

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article – Transportation**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 [21-811.

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

3 (2) "Special event" means any automotive or motor vehicle event occurring
4 on or in close proximity to a highway that:

5 (i) Has been permitted or approved by a unit of local government; or

6 (ii) Is expected to have 1,000 or more individuals in attendance,
7 regardless of whether the event has been permitted or approved by a unit of local
8 government.

9 (3) "Special event zone" means an area on or alongside a highway that is
10 marked by appropriate warning signs or other traffic control devices designating that a
11 special event is in progress.

12 (b) This section applies only in Worcester County.

13 (c) (1) The State Highway Administration may, on its own initiative or at the
14 request of a local authority:

15 (i) Designate an area on a State highway as a special event zone;
16 and

17 (ii) Reduce established speed limits in the special event zone after a
18 determination that the change is necessary to ensure public safety.

19 (2) A local authority may:

20 (i) Designate an area on a highway under its jurisdiction as a
21 special event zone; and

22 (ii) Reduce established speed limits in the special event zone after a
23 determination that the change is necessary to ensure public safety.

24 (d) A speed limit established under this section shall become effective when
25 posted.

26 (e) A person may not drive a motor vehicle at a speed exceeding the posted speed
27 limit within a special event zone established in accordance with this section.

28 (f) A person convicted of a violation of subsection (e) of this section is subject to a
29 fine not exceeding \$1,000.]

30 21-901.1.

1 (a) A person is guilty of reckless driving if he drives a motor vehicle:

2 (1) In wanton or willful disregard for the safety of persons or property; or

3 (2) In a manner that indicates a wanton or willful disregard for the safety
4 of persons or property.

5 (b) A person is guilty of negligent driving if he drives a motor vehicle in a careless
6 or imprudent manner that endangers any property or the life or person of any individual.

7 (c) A person convicted of a violation of subsection (a) of this section is subject to a
8 fine not exceeding \$1,000.

9 21-1116.

10 (a) Except as provided in § 21-1211 of this title, on any highway or on any private
11 property that is used by the public in general, a person may not drive a vehicle in a race or
12 speed contest, whether or not on a wager or for a prize or reward.

13 (b) Except as provided in § 21-1211 of this title, a person may not participate as
14 a timekeeper or flagman in any race or speed contest specified in subsection (a) of this
15 section.

16 (c) A person convicted of a violation of subsection (a) of this section that results
17 in serious bodily injury to another person, as defined in § 20-102(c) of this article, is subject
18 to imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both.

19 21-1117.

20 (a) (1) This section applies throughout this State, whether on or off a highway.

21 (2) For purposes of this section, any noise level above that adopted by the
22 Administrator under § 22-601 of this article is excessive.

23 (b) A person may not drive a motor vehicle in any improper manner intended to
24 cause skidding.

25 (c) A person may not drive a motor vehicle in any improper manner intended to
26 cause spinning of wheels.

27 (d) A person may not drive a motor vehicle in any improper manner intended to
28 cause excessive noise.

29 **21-1132.**

30 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
31 **INDICATED.**

1 **(2) "SPECIAL EVENT" MEANS ANY AUTOMOTIVE OR MOTOR VEHICLE**
2 **EVENT OCCURRING ON OR IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO A HIGHWAY THAT:**

3 **(I) HAS BEEN PERMITTED OR APPROVED BY A UNIT OF LOCAL**
4 **GOVERNMENT; OR**

5 **(II) IS EXPECTED TO HAVE 1,000 OR MORE INDIVIDUALS IN**
6 **ATTENDANCE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE EVENT HAS BEEN PERMITTED OR**
7 **APPROVED BY A UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**

8 **(3) "SPECIAL EVENT ZONE" MEANS AN AREA ON OR ALONGSIDE A**
9 **HIGHWAY THAT IS MARKED BY APPROPRIATE WARNING SIGNS OR OTHER TRAFFIC**
10 **CONTROL DEVICES DESIGNATING THAT A SPECIAL EVENT IS IN PROGRESS.**

11 **(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN WORCESTER COUNTY.**

12 **(C) (1) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION MAY, ON ITS OWN**
13 **INITIATIVE OR AT THE REQUEST OF A LOCAL AUTHORITY:**

14 **(I) DESIGNATE AN AREA ON A STATE HIGHWAY AS A SPECIAL**
15 **EVENT ZONE; AND**

16 **(II) REDUCE ESTABLISHED SPEED LIMITS IN THE SPECIAL**
17 **EVENT ZONE AFTER A DETERMINATION THAT THE CHANGE IS NECESSARY TO**
18 **ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY.**

19 **(2) A LOCAL AUTHORITY MAY:**

20 **(I) DESIGNATE AN AREA ON A HIGHWAY UNDER ITS**
21 **JURISDICTION AS A SPECIAL EVENT ZONE; AND**

22 **(II) REDUCE ESTABLISHED SPEED LIMITS IN THE SPECIAL**
23 **EVENT ZONE AFTER A DETERMINATION THAT THE CHANGE IS NECESSARY TO**
24 **ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY.**

25 **(D) A SPEED LIMIT ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BECOME**
26 **EFFECTIVE WHEN POSTED.**

27 **(E) A PERSON MAY NOT DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE AT A SPEED EXCEEDING**
28 **THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT WITHIN A SPECIAL EVENT ZONE ESTABLISHED IN**
29 **ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.**

1 **(F) A PERSON IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 IF CONVICTED**
2 **OF COMMITTING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING VIOLATIONS WITHIN A SPECIAL EVENT**
3 **ZONE:**

4 **(1) DRIVING A MOTOR VEHICLE AT A SPEED EXCEEDING THE POSTED**
5 **SPEED LIMIT UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION;**

6 **(2) NEGLIGENT DRIVING UNDER § 21-901.1(B) OF THIS TITLE;**

7 **(3) DRIVING A MOTOR VEHICLE IN A RACE OR SPEED CONTEST UNDER**
8 **§ 21-1116(A) OF THIS TITLE THAT DOES NOT RESULT IN SERIOUS BODILY INJURY TO**
9 **ANOTHER PERSON, AS DEFINED IN § 20-102(C) OF THIS ARTICLE;**

10 **(4) PARTICIPATING IN A RACE OR SPEED CONTEST UNDER §**
11 **21-1116(B) OF THIS TITLE; OR**

12 **(5) SKIDDING, SPINNING OF WHEELS, OR CAUSING EXCESSIVE NOISE**
13 **UNDER § 21-1117 OF THIS TITLE.**

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
15 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
16 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
17 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
18 enacted.