

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 18-0286
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Dorsey, Clarke, Henry, Middleton, Scott, Burnett, Cohen,
Pinkett, Sneed, Reisinger

Introduced and read first time: September 17, 2018

Assigned to: Land Use and Transportation Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Transportation, Police
Department

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 style="text-align:center">**Transit and Traffic – Speed Limits**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the general maximum speed limit for various types of roadways
4 in the City; creating a process for altering the general maximum speed limits for specific
5 roadways; and generally relating to maximum speed limits.

6 BY adding

7 Article 31 - Transit and Traffic

8 Section(s) 16-65 and 16-66, to be under the new designation

9 “Part 11. Speed limits”.

10 Baltimore City Code

11 (Edition 2000)

12 **WHEREAS**, a 2014 report by the Maryland Highway Safety Office shows that Baltimore
13 City’s crash rate is 370% the rate of the rest of Maryland;

14 **WHEREAS**, a 2018 Allstate Insurance report on driver behavior established that Baltimore
15 ranks 200 out of 200 for Worst Drivers in the U.S., dropping in ranking from 199 in 2017;

16 **WHEREAS**, conditions such as these are understood to be determinants of Baltimore’s
17 comparatively high auto insurance rates, relative to rates for drivers throughout the rest of
18 Maryland;

19 **WHEREAS**, a pedestrian’s likelihood of surviving being struck by a vehicle dramatically
20 decreases the faster the vehicle is traveling, with critical differences between 20, 30, and 40
21 m.p.h. travel speeds, and enforcement not typically occurring except where vehicles are traveling
22 more than 10 m.p.h. above a posted speed limit;

23 **WHEREAS**, a recent study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety shows that lowering
24 posted speed limits is effective at reducing driver speeds;

25 **WHEREAS**, in recent years, other cities such as Boston, New York, Portland, and Seattle have
26 reduced local speed limits, and the “Worst Drivers” report had previously ranked Boston below
27 Baltimore City and Boston’s ranking has improved since reducing speed limits; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 (2) UNLESS EXTENDED AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION
2 IS EFFECTIVE FOR A PERIOD OF NOT MORE THAN 6 MONTHS.

3 (C) *PROCEDURE TO EXTEND REGULATION.*

4 (1) THE DIRECTOR MAY SEEK TO EXTEND THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION
5 INDEFINITELY OR FOR A TERM OF YEARS BY GIVING WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED
6 EXTENSION, NOT LESS THAN 30 DAYS BEFORE THE END OF THE 6-MONTH PERIOD, TO
7 THE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND TO EACH MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL
8 WHO REPRESENTS ALL OR PART OF THE AFFECTED AREA.

9 (2) IF, WITHIN THE 30-DAY PERIOD, NO WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE EXTENSION IS MADE
10 AND SUBMITTED TO THE DIRECTOR BY THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT OR BY A MEMBER OF
11 THE CITY COUNCIL WHO REPRESENTS ALL OR PART OF THE AFFECTED AREA, THE
12 REGULATION IS EXTENDED AT THE END OF THE 6-MONTH PERIOD.

13 (3) IF A TIMELY WRITTEN OBJECTION IS RECEIVED BY THE DIRECTOR, THE COUNCIL
14 PRESIDENT SHALL INTRODUCE A PROPOSED ORDINANCE SETTING FORTH THE
15 PROVISIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION AND, DEPENDING ON THE PASSAGE
16 OR FAILURE OF THE ORDINANCE, THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION WILL BECOME
17 EFFECTIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE ORDINANCE OR BE OF NO
18 FURTHER FORCE OR EFFECT.

19 (D) *TERMINATION BY ORDINANCE.*

20 AT ANY TIME AFTER AN ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION IS ADOPTED OR EXTENDED UNDER
21 THIS SECTION, THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MAY ENACT AN ORDINANCE RESCINDING
22 OR MODIFYING THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION.

23 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance
24 are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior
25 Ordinance.

26 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day
27 after the date it is enacted.