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H.B. 494
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Creech

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SUMMARY

- Authorizes the legislative authority of a municipal corporation, county, or township to propose, by resolution, to establish a “school adjacent zone” on any street or highway located within a half mile of a school, as an alternative to a traditional 20 mph school zone.
- Specifies all of the following regarding the resolution:
 - It must designate the proposed speed limit on each road or highway within the school adjacent zone and the hours when those speed limits are in effect;
 - The legislative authority must consult with the school administration and county engineer, or other appropriate engineer prior to adopting it; and
 - The legislative authority must submit it to the Director of Transportation for approval.
- Requires the Director to approve the resolution before speed limits may be altered.
- Specifies that a school adjacent zone speed limit is effective when signs giving notice of the zone are erected at the appropriate locations.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

School adjacent zone

The bill authorizes the legislative authority of a municipal corporation, county, or township (legislative authority) to propose, by resolution, to establish a “school adjacent zone” as an alternative to a traditional 20 mph school zone. A school adjacent zone may apply to any street or highway located within a half mile of a school. The legislative authority must specify in the resolution the proposed speed limit on each street or highway within the planned school adjacent zone and the hours when those speed limits will be in effect. The legislative authority

must consult with the school administration and the county engineer, or other appropriate engineer, prior to adopting it.

Once the resolution is adopted, the legislative authority must submit it to the Director of Transportation for approval. The Director must approve the resolution before the speed limits may be altered as proposed in the resolution. The school adjacent zone speed limit is only effective when signs giving notice of the zone are erected at the appropriate locations.¹

In effect, the bill would expand the ability of a legislative authority to do both of the following:

1. Designate speed limits on streets and highways within a half mile of a school that do not meet the current traditional school zone frontage requirements (and therefore cannot currently be established as part of a traditional school zone);
2. Expand existing traditional school zones beyond current frontage requirements (see below).

Traditional school zone

Under current law, a traditional 20 mph school zone may be established on a street or highway passing a school. The school zone speed limit applies **only** during school recess and while children are going to or leaving school during the opening or closing hours. The school zone is delineated by projecting the school property lines to the fronting street or highway. Local authorities may request the Director of Transportation to extend the school zone by 300 feet in both directions from the traditional zone, as an extension of one of the following:

1. The street or highway that passes in front of the school building;
2. The street or highway that passes in front of the school property; or
3. The portion of the street or highway that includes a primary crosswalk used by students.²

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	11-23-21

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¹ R.C. 4511.21(O).

² R.C. 4511.21(B)(1)(c).