



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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H.B. 455*

131st General Assembly
(As Reported by H. Local Government)

Reps. Patterson and Roegner, M. O'Brien, Rogers

BILL SUMMARY

- Authorizes the legislative authority of a municipal corporation or township in which a boarding school is located to establish a "boarding school zone."
- Allows the legislative authority to alter the speed limit on any street or highway within the "boarding school zone" and to specify the hours during which the altered speed limit is in effect.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

"Boarding school zone" speed limit

The bill authorizes the legislative authority of a municipal corporation or township in which a boarding school is located to establish a "boarding school zone" in which an altered speed limit may be imposed. In order to establish a boarding school zone, the legislative authority must consult with the administration of the boarding school and the county engineer or other appropriate engineer regarding the boundaries of the boarding school zone, the altered speed limit within the zone, and the hours the altered speed limit will be in effect. The boarding school zone may be established by resolution or ordinance of the legislative authority and the altered speed limit within the zone becomes effective when appropriate signs are erected.¹ Under current law, the general school zone speed limit (see below) applies to roads that are within a school zone associated with a boarding school.²

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House Local Government Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ R.C. 4511.21(N).

² R.C. 4511.21(B)(1).

Background: speed limits

Speed limits are generally statutorily specified speeds that serve as a threshold speed below which it is prima-facie lawful for a person to operate a vehicle. The speed limit for a roadway depends on the type and location of roadway. Except in limited circumstances, the statutory speed limits may only be modified by the Director of Transportation or by a local authority upon approval by the Director.³

"School zone" speed limits

Current law, unchanged by the bill, specifies that within a "school zone" the speed limit is 20 miles per hour during school recess and while children are going to or leaving school during the opening or closing hours, so long as signs have been erected.⁴ A school zone, as defined under current law, means the portion of a street or highway passing a school fronting upon the street or highway that is encompassed by projecting the school property lines to the fronting street or highway. The school zone may be expanded by the Director of Transportation upon the request of a local authority, in accordance with statutory procedures, up to 300 feet per approach per direction.⁵

HISTORY

| ACTION | DATE |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Introduced | 02-09-16 |
| Reported, H. Local Gov't | --- |

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³ See generally, R.C. 4511.21.

⁴ R.C. 4511.21(B)(1)(a). School zone speed limits do not apply to controlled-access highways, expressways, or freeways if a right-of-way line fence has been erected without a pedestrian opening.

⁵ R.C. 4511.21(B)(1)(c). Modified procedures apply with regard to establishing a school zone on a state route or for a special elementary school (R.C. 4511.21(B)(1)(b) and (d)).

