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BILL ANALYSIS



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House Bill 5847 (Substitute H-3 as passed by the House)
Sponsor: Representative Deborah Whyman
House Committee: Transportation
Senate Committee: Transportation and Tourism

Date Completed: 12-4-96

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to provide for an exception to the Code's provisions governing the boundaries of a school zone when a school was located in an area that required school children to cross a State trunk line highway or county highway.

Currently, "school zone" means school property on which a school building is located and the area adjacent to the school property that is designated by required signs. A school zone cannot extend more than 1,000 feet from the property line of the school in each direction.

Under the bill, if a school were located in an area that required school children to cross a State trunk line highway or county highway that had a speed limit of at least 35 miles per hour to attend that school, the school superintendent could submit a request to the State Transportation Commission, county road commission, or local authority having jurisdiction over the roadway, as applicable, for a school crossing as permitted under the Code. If, based on the traffic engineering studies, the road authority determined the need for a lower speed limit, the authority could designate the crossing as a school zone. Before submitting a request, the school superintendent would have to have completed a school route plan as prescribed in the Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

MCL 257.627a

Legislative Analyst: L. Arasim

FISCAL IMPACT

Costs would depend on the number of crossings designated as school zones under the bill. Costs would include traffic engineering studies and appropriate signs for the crossings.

Fiscal Analyst: B. Bowerman

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.