



February 7, 2024

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes a county or municipality to hire employees or appoint volunteers to divert vehicles or temporarily close a lane or portion of a public road or highway within a marked school zone during the period of time that is necessary for dropping off or picking up students. Requires a warning flasher to be in operation during such time and appropriate signage to be posted.

Creates a Class C misdemeanor offense for knowingly ignoring the warning signs and driving into a portion of a public road or highway that has been designated for dropping off or picking up students. Stipulates the misdemeanor offense is only punishable by a fine of 50 dollars.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact – Passage of this legislation will result in a permissive increase in local expenditures related to signage. Due to unknown variables, a precise estimate of such increase cannot be quantified.

Assumptions:

- It is assumed that school districts that must divert traffic in this way are currently doing so by utilizing a variety of personnel and funding. Based on information provided by the Department of Education, this includes the use of school resource officers and crossing guards and the utilization of security grant funds. It also presumably includes the use of county and city funds.
- Authorizing these districts to hire employees for this purpose is therefore not estimated to result in a significant increase in local expenditures.
- The legislation requires that any county or municipality that does this must ensure that appropriate signage is posted not less than 500 feet, but not more than one 1,000 feet in advance of the marked school zone, informing drivers as to the traffic diversion or temporary closure.
- It is assumed that there are some districts that need to divert traffic in this manner that do not currently have the signage that would meet the proposed requirements.
- Therefore, it's assumed that those districts would realize an increase in local expenditures related to additional signage. However, the number of districts that will need new signage, the amount of signage they will need, and how much that may cost are not known and therefore cannot be quantified.

- The legislation prohibits incarceration as a punishment for the new Class C misdemeanor offense. Therefore, there will be no fiscal impacts related to incarceration.
- A violation of the offense is punishable only by a \$50 fine.
- It's assumed that driving in such a manner prohibited under the legislation is already punishable through traffic citation, most likely reckless driving, which carries penalties of greater than \$50.
- Any impact on local revenue from traffic fines is therefore estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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