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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

S.B. 154  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Maharath

Margaret E. Marcy, Attorney

### SUMMARY

- Requires the beginning of a school zone to be marked by either of the following:
  - A sign equipped with lights that indicate when the school zone speed limit is in effect; or
  - A sign that gives notice of the hours during which the school zone speed limit is in effect.
- Requires the end of each school zone to be marked with a sign.
- Requires the Director of Transportation to establish standards for school zone signs and lights.
- Makes an appropriation, based on money identified by the Director from the Highway Operating Fund, to be used to pay for the necessary signage required by the bill.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### School zone speed limit signs

The bill requires the beginning of a school zone to be marked by either of the following:

1. A sign equipped with flashing or other lights that indicates that the school zone speed limit is in effect; or
2. A sign that gives notice of the hours during which the school zone speed limit is in effect.

The Director of Transportation must establish adequate standards governing the use of the signs. If signs equipped with lights are used, the lights must be activated by a time clock, by another automatic device, or manually. The bill also requires the end of each school zone to be marked by a sign indicating the end of the school zone.

A school zone generally includes the portion of a street or highway that is encompassed by projecting the school property lines to the street or highway. However, upon request, the Director of Transportation generally may extend the school zone up to 300 feet in each approach direction. Under current law, school zones must be marked by school zone speed limit signs, but the signs are not required to be equipped with flashing lights or give notice of the hours during which the school zone speed limit is in effect. In addition, end of the school zone signs are not required, but are authorized.<sup>1</sup>

### **Funding for school zone speed limit signs**

The bill requires the Department of Transportation to provide funding for all changes to school zone signage or equipment that are required as a result of the bill. The Director of Transportation must identify money in the Highway Operating Fund on July 1, 2021, or as soon as possible thereafter, to be used for this purpose. The bill appropriates the amount identified by the Director in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.<sup>2</sup>

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## **HISTORY**

Action	Date
Introduced	04-13-21

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S0154-I-134/ec

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 4511.21(B)(1)(a) and (c).

<sup>2</sup> Section 3.