

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2015**

Bill Number: H.323 Name of Bill: An act relating to double fines for speeding in school zone (short form)

Agency/Dept.: Dept. Public Safety-State Police Author of Bill Review: Sgt. Teresa Randall

Date of Bill Review: March 6, 2015 Related Bills and Key Players: Law Enforcement

Status of Bill: (check one)

XXXX Upon Introduction                      As passed by 1<sup>st</sup> body                      As passed by both bodies

Recommended Position:

                     Support                      Oppose                      Remain Neutral                      XXX Support with modifications identified in # 8 below

**Analysis of Bill**

**1. Summary of bill and issue it addresses.** *Describe what the bill is intended to accomplish and why.*

This bill proposes to provide for double fines for speeding in a properly designated school zone.  
23 § 1081. BASIC RULE AND MAXIMUM LIMITS

**2. Is there a need for this bill?** *Please explain why or why not.*

There is a need for this bill. School zones are heavy traffic areas for vehicles, school buses, personal cars, pedestrian's (children) and bicyclist. Speed limits are reduced in school zones and work zones as they have been identified as high danger areas and drivers need to be held accountable for violating the posted speed limits. At this time there is no data available for tracking the number of speeding violations or crashes in a school zones to give an adequate scope of the problem.

**3. What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?**

Department of Public Safety would have a moderate expense for education and public awareness.

**4. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?**

A new violation code would have to be developed and programmed in the DMV computer system. The cost is estimated a \$1000.00 per code. A code would have to be developed for 23 VSA §1003, 1004, 1007 and 1081. Total estimated cost to DMV would be \$4,000.00. Judicial Bureau could see an increase in hearing requests due to the fine.

**5. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?**

There are over 300 school zones in the State of Vermont and signs warning the public of the enhanced fine would need to be placed in each school zone.

**6. Other Stakeholders:**

**6.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why?**

Law Enforcement, schools and the public would support this bill as it would make the highways safer for our children.

**6.2 Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why?**

The motoring public might oppose this bill as there is already a fine associated with the law and some might feel increasing the fine amount is unnecessary.

**7. Rationale for recommendation:** *Justify recommendation stated above.*

School zones are heavy traffic areas for vehicles, school bus, personal cars, pedestrian's (children) and bicyclist. Speed limits are reduced in school zones and work zones as they have been identified as high danger areas and drivers need to be held accountable for violating the posted speed limits.

Many school zones are located on municipally controlled roads and would be written under 23 VSA 1007. Officers issuing violations under 23 VSA 1007, 1003 or 1004 would not be able to double the fine if the bill was to pass as written. 23 VSA 1010 could be amended for school zones as well as work zone penalty enhancement. A data collection system should also be implemented for tracking the number of speeding violations or crashes in a school zones.

**8. Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill:** *Not meant to rewrite bill, but rather, an opportunity to identify simple modifications that would change recommended position.*

The amended T23 VSA 1010 should be placed after the work zone enhancement. . A data collection system should be implemented for tracking the number of speeding violations or crashes in a school zones.

**9. Gubernatorial appointments to board or commission?**

**N/A**

**Secretary/Commissioner has reviewed this document**



**Date: 4/10/15**