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California Traffic Control Devices Committee



Date: MM DD YYYY

Senator Jim Beall & Senator Anthony Cannella
Chairman
Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing
State Capitol, Room 2209
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Beall & Senator Cannella:

The Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing had requested the California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC) to review and examine current language in the California Vehicle Code (CVC) regarding school zones and the conditions when school speed limit is in effect in September 2015 and report back in 2016. The request was regarding extending the school zone and school speed limit signing changes.

A CTCDC subcommittee was formed in December 2015 to examine these topics and consider if there is a need to revise the CVC language. This subcommittee has spent numerous hours and had thoroughly vetted the issues surrounding extending the school zones and proposed change "when children are present" standards. In the CTCDC meeting held on June 30, 2016, the recommendations of the subcommittee were approved by the CTCDC members. The existing laws and the recommendations of the subcommittee as pertaining to the length of the school zone and when school zone speed limit is in effect are provided below.

LENGTH OF SCHOOL ZONE

The existing laws regarding the length of the school zone are summarized below. As per CVC 22352 and CVC 22358.4 (b) (1) (B)

Current Law

- School speed zone is applicable from 500 feet away from school grounds.
- Local authority may extend School speed zone by ordinance or resolution up to 1000 feet from school grounds under the following conditions:
 1. School speed limit no less than 25 mph
 2. In a residence district, on a highway with a posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour or slower
 3. On a roadway with a maximum of two traffic lanes.

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**Recommendation from the subcommittee:**

Maintain the existing law and add the following text to the CVC:

- On any roadway approaching a school, school zones may be extended to 300 feet beyond an uncontrolled school crosswalk (marked school crosswalk without traffic control) that is located up to 1000 feet from the school grounds when all of the following conditions are met:
 1. The uncontrolled marked school crosswalk is between 500 feet and 1000 feet from the school grounds and is located where there is no existing traffic control, and
 2. based on an engineering and traffic study that demonstrates a collision history with school-aged pedestrians or school-aged bicyclists going to or from the school grounds, and
 3. based on an engineering and traffic study, that it is not warranted to install a protected crosswalk with traffic control devices such as stop signs, signals or pedestrian hybrid beacons or implement other measures such as a roundabout at that location or move the unprotected crosswalk as close to the school grounds as practicable, and
 4. the route is designated as a Safe Routes to School route, and
 5. there does not exist a crosswalk closer to the school grounds which can serve the need of school-aged pedestrians to cross the roadway.
- Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a local authority may not declare a speed limit of less than 25 mph where a school zone has been extended to greater than 500 feet from school grounds. (same as current law)

Support: The above additional text eliminates the restriction on extending the school zone up to 1000 feet to only locations in a residence district with a posted speed limit of 30 mph or less, and allows extending the school zone up to 1000 feet on any roadway or 1300 feet with an uncontrolled crosswalk, with the restriction that it be for the purpose of slowing traffic where children are crossing the roadway in an unprotected crosswalk.

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**WHEN SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT IN EFFECT**

The existing laws regarding the time the school speed limit time is in effect are summarized below. As per CVC 22352 and CVC 22358.4 (b) (1)

Current Law

- While children are going to or leaving the school either during school hours or during the noon recess period.
- While the grounds are in use by children where the school grounds are not separated from the highway by a fence, gate, or other physical barrier.

Recommendation from the subcommittee:

No change is recommended

I appreciate the opportunity given to the CTCDC to comment on SB 632 by the Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing.

Sincerely,

Mark Greenwood
Chairman CTCDC

cc: CTCDC Members
CTCDC Files