

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SB 1896
 SPONSOR: Senator Atwater
 SUBJECT: School Speed Zones
 DATE: March 22, 2003 REVISED: _____

| | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
|----|-----------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. | McAuliffe | Meyer | TR | Favorable |
| 2. | _____ | _____ | ED | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ | ATD | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | _____ | AP | _____ |
| 5. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 6. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

I. Summary:

This bill amends s. 316.1895, F.S., to provide flashing beacons activated by a time clock, or other automatic device, may be used as an alternative to posting the times during which the restrictive school speed limit is enforced, as required by current law. The bill provides FDOT is responsible for establishing adequate standards for the beacons.

This bill substantially amends section 316.1895 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 316.1895, F.S., provides the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), must adopt a uniform system of traffic control devices and pedestrian control devices for use on the streets and highways in the state surrounding all public and private schools.

The section charges FDOT with compiling, publishing, and transmitting a manual containing all specifications and requirements for such traffic control devices to the governing body of each county and municipality in the state who must install and maintain such traffic and pedestrian control devices in conformity with the manual.

The FDOT is responsible for maintaining school zones located on state-maintained primary or secondary roads. However, FDOT may enter into agreements with counties or municipalities authorizing the local governmental entities to maintain specified school zones on state-maintained primary or secondary roads. The section provides the county is responsible for maintaining a school zone located outside of any municipality and on a county road, and a municipality is responsible for maintaining a school zone located in a municipality.

The section provides a school zone maintained by a county must be periodically inspected by the county sheriff's office or any other qualified agent to determine whether or not the school zone is being properly maintained. A school zone maintained by a municipality must be periodically inspected by the municipal police department or any other qualified agent to determine whether or not the school zone is being properly maintained.

The section further provides a school zone speed limit may not be less than 15 miles per hour except by local regulation, and no school zone speed limit may be more than 20 miles per hour in an urbanized area. Such speed limits may be in force only during those times 30 minutes before, during, and 30 minutes after the periods of time when pupils are arriving at a regularly scheduled breakfast program or a regularly scheduled school session and when pupils are leaving a regularly scheduled school session.

Section 316.1895 (6), F.S., provides permanent signs designating school zones and school zone speed limits must be uniform in size and color, and must have the times during which the restrictive speed limit is enforced clearly designated on the sign. The FDOT is responsible for establishing adequate standards for the signs.

The section also authorizes the use of automatic traffic control devices for the control of vehicular and pedestrian traffic at school crossings in lieu of permanent or portable school zone signs, and provides FDOT is responsible for establishing adequate standards for the signs.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 316.1895, F.S., is amended to provide flashing beacons activated by a time clock, or other automatic device, may be used as an alternative to posting the times during which the restrictive school speed limit is enforced, as required by current law. The bill provides FDOT is responsible for establishing adequate standards for the beacons.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
