

SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 4251

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled
"Michigan vehicle code,"
by amending section 627a (MCL 257.627a), as amended by 1996 PA
574.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 627a. (1) As used in this section and section 629:
2 (a) "Regularly scheduled school session" means that part of
3 a day of student instruction which is followed by a break for
4 lunch or by a final dismissal of the student body for that day.
5 (b) "School" means an educational institution operated by a
6 local school district or by a private, denominational, or paro-
7 chial organization, except an educational institution containing
8 only grades above eighth grade. School shall not include an
9 educational institution which the department of education
10 determines either has its entire student population in residence

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1 at the institution or has its entire student population
2 transported to and from the institution by motor vehicles.

3 (c) "School zone" means school property on which a school
4 building is located and the area adjacent to the school property
5 which is designated by the signs required under subsection (2).
6 Except as otherwise provided in subsection (5), the school zone
7 shall extend not more than 1,000 feet from the property line of
8 the school in each direction.

9 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4), the prima facie
10 speed limit in a school zone, which shall be in force 30 minutes
11 before the first regularly scheduled school session until school
12 commences and from dismissal until 30 minutes after the last reg-
13 ularly scheduled school session, and during a lunch period when
14 students are permitted to leave the school, shall be 25 miles an
15 hour UNLESS THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OR PRESIDING SCHOOL OFFI-
16 CIAL REQUESTS THE APPROPRIATE JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITY TO LOWER
17 THE SPEED LIMIT TO 15 MILES PER HOUR, if permanent signs desig-
18 nating the school zone and the speed limit in the school zone are
19 posted at the request of the school superintendent. The signs
20 shall conform to the Michigan manual of uniform traffic control
21 devices.

22 (3) This section shall not apply to a limited access highway
23 or to that portion of a street or highway over which a pedestrian
24 overhead walkway is erected, if the walkway is adjacent to school
25 property and is designed and located so as to be used, and is
26 being used, as the principal means by which students of a school

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1 which has property adjacent to the walkway travel to and from the
2 school.

3 (4) Local authorities may increase or decrease the prima
4 facie speed limit within a school zone under their jurisdiction.
5 ~~pursuant to section 629.~~

6 (5) Notwithstanding the requirements for a school zone as
7 defined in subsection (1)(c), if a school is located in an area
8 that requires school children to cross a state trunk line highway
9 or county highway that has a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or
10 more to attend that school, the school superintendent may submit
11 a request to the state transportation commission, county road
12 commission, or local authority having jurisdiction over the road-
13 way, as applicable, for a school crossing as permitted under
14 section 613a. If, based on the traffic engineering studies, the
15 road authority determines the need for a lower speed limit, the
16 road authority may designate the crossing as a school zone.
17 Before submitting a request, the school superintendent shall have
18 completed a school route plan as prescribed by section 7a-1 of
19 the Michigan manual of uniform traffic control devices.

20 (6) Notwithstanding the ~~25 mile per hour~~ prima facie speed
21 limit established by subsection (2), the prima facie speed limit
22 for any street in a school zone which has sidewalks along at
23 least 1 side of the street, which shall be in force during the
24 same periods ~~which a 25 mile per hour~~ THAT THE speed limit pro-
25 vided by subsection (2) would otherwise be effective, shall be
26 set at the limit requested by the superintendent of schools with
27 jurisdiction over the school within the school zone, but this

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Sub. H.B. 4251 (H-1) as amended March 11 and 18, 1998

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- 1 limit shall ~~neither~~ NOT be more than [15 25] miles per hour below
- 2 the regularly posted speed limit for that street [OR LESS THAN THE
PRIMA FACIE SPEED LIMIT ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (2)]. ~~nor less~~
than
- 3 ~~25 miles per hour.~~ Permanent signs designating the school zone
- 4 and the speed limit in the school zone shall be posted. These
- 5 signs shall conform to the Michigan manual of uniform traffic
- 6 control devices. [IF A REDUCED SPEED LIMIT IS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS
SUBSECTION, IN ADDITION TO THE SIGNS DESIGNATING THE SCHOOL ZONE AND
THE SPEED LIMIT IN THE SCHOOL ZONE, THE LOCAL AUTHORITY SHALL
DETERMINE, CONSISTENT WITH THE MICHIGAN MANUAL OF UNIFORM TRAFFIC
CONTROL DEVICES, WHETHER TO PLACE REDUCED SPEED AHEAD WARNING SIGNS
IN ADVANCE OF THE APPROACHING SCHOOL ZONE.]