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BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

Lansing, Michigan 48909

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House Bill 5597 (as reported without amendment)

Sponsor: Representative H. Lynn Jondahl

House Committee: Transportation

Senate Committee: State Affairs, Tourism, and Transportation

Date Completed: 12-6-88

RATIONALE

Public Act 193 of 1987 amended the Michigan Vehicle Code to allow townships (especially those experiencing rapid growth) to lower the prima facie speed limit (25 miles per hour) on highways around parks and playgrounds. It has been pointed out that the manner in which Public Act 193 amended the Code had the effect of giving townships the authority to change speed limits on a much broader basis than necessary. Further, some say, a county road commission, rather than a township, should have the authority to change the speed limits since the roads technically are within the commission's jurisdiction.

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to allow county road commissions to decrease prima facie speed limits under certain conditions. The Michigan Vehicle Code allows local authorities to establish or increase the prima facie speed limits on highways under their jurisdiction subject to certain limitations. The Code defines the term "local authority" to include the governing body of a city or village and, with the concurrence of the county road commission in certain cases, the township board of a township for a highway within the boundaries of the township. The bill would amend the Code to limit the term "local authority" to mean the governing body of a city or village with the following exception: a county road commission would be authorized to decrease the prima facie speed limits on streets or highways adjacent to publicly owned parks or playgrounds under its jurisdiction if the commission had the concurrence of the township board of a township for a street or highway within the boundaries of the township.

MCL 257.628 and 257.629

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

ARGUMENTS***Supporting Argument***

The bill would clarify the meaning of the term "local authority" and specify when county road commissions would be included in the definition of the term.

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

H.B. 5597 (12-6-88)