

HOUSE BILL No. 4251

February 6, 1997, Introduced by Reps. Varga and Schermesser and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

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

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~~ 15
15 miles an hour, if permanent signs designating the school zone and
16 the speed limit in the school zone are posted at the request of
17 the school superintendent. The signs shall conform to the
18 Michigan manual of uniform traffic control devices.

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

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

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

18 (6) Notwithstanding the ~~-25-~~ 15 mile per hour prima facie
19 speed limit established by subsection (2), the prima facie speed
20 limit for any street in a school zone which has sidewalks along
21 at least 1 side of the street, which shall be in force during the
22 same periods which a ~~-25-~~ 15 mile per hour speed limit provided
23 by subsection (2) would otherwise be effective, shall be set at
24 the limit requested by the superintendent of schools with juris-
25 diction over the school within the school zone, but this limit
26 shall ~~neither~~ NOT be more than 15 miles per hour below the
27 regularly posted speed limit for that street. ~~nor less than 25~~

~~1 miles per hour.~~ Permanent signs designating the school zone and
2 the speed limit in the school zone shall be posted. These signs
3 shall conform to the Michigan manual of uniform traffic control
4 devices.