

SESSION OF 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 347

As Amended by House Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

SB 347 would double the amount of the fine for traffic infractions related to speeding within school zones. The bill also would require the Secretary of Transportation to jointly determine with the local board of education of a school district located adjacent to a rural school zone the maximum speed limit and the signage for the zone. The maximum speed limit and signs for these zones would be approved by the Secretary and the local school board. The bill would define a rural school zone as that portion of highway located outside of any city which provides entrances and exits to any school located adjacent to such highways.

Background

Conferees who testified before the Senate and House Committees in favor the bill included the bill's sponsor, Senator Journey and David Church, Chief of Traffic Engineering, Kansas Department of Transportation. Senator Journey told the Committee that the bill was originally introduced last year as SB 35 and was passed by the Senate in 2005. SB 35 was comprised of two parts. Those two parts have been separated to create SB 344 and SB 347. The other conferee, Mr. Church, testified that the most effective method of lowering drivers' speeds within a school zone is to have a law enforcement presence. He said that doubling the fines for speed limit violations within school zones is an added incentive for drivers to obey the law.

The House Transportation Committee added the language pertaining to rural school zones.

The original fiscal note prepared by the Division of Budget indicates that doubling fines would increase revenues from traffic

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

offenses related to speeding in a school zone. No information is available at the state level by which to estimate an accurate amount of the increased revenues that would accrue as a result of this bill. Any accurate estimate also would have to account for the reduced incidence of infractions that could be expected to occur as a deterrent effect by doubling the fines.