

Florida Senate - 2002  
By Senator Mitchell

SB 244

4-228-02

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to school speed zones; amending  
3           s. 316.1895, F.S.; authorizing school boards to  
4           extend the hours during which reduced speed  
5           limits are in effect at specified schools;  
6           providing an effect date.

8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10           Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 316.1895, Florida  
11 Statutes, is amended to read:

12           316.1895 Establishment of school speed zones,  
13 enforcement; designation.--

14           (5) A school zone speed limit may not be less than 15  
15 miles per hour except by local regulation. ~~A No~~ school zone  
16 speed limit may not shall be more than 20 miles per hour in an  
17 urbanized area, as defined in s. 334.03. Such speed limit may  
18 be in force only during those times 30 minutes before, during,  
19 and 30 minutes after the periods of time when pupils are  
20 arriving at a regularly scheduled breakfast program or a  
21 regularly scheduled school session and leaving a regularly  
22 scheduled school session. However, a school board, in the  
23 interest of safety, may extend the period of time during which  
24 the lower speed limit is in effect at specified schools to  
25 cover the entire school day.

26           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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29                                   SENATE SUMMARY

30           Provides that school boards in the interest of safety,  
31           may extend certain speed limits at specified schools to  
          cover the entire school day.

**DRAFT**

Alachua County Legislative Delegation

Dear

In the current legislative session, Senator Mitchell has introduced a bill related to school zones. This bill, Senate Bill 244, modifies Florida Statute 316.1895, which regulates when school zones are in effect. Currently, school zones are in effect 30 minutes prior to and after school start and end times – the times when motorists will most likely encounter children walking between their school and home.

The proposed modification will allow school boards, at their sole discretion, to lengthen the effective time of school zones to include the entire school day. There is no requirement for an engineering study or other justification to warrant such a change.

Both our Professional Engineering and Police Department staffs believe this legislation will decrease motorist's compliance for speed reductions through school zones and actually decrease safety of the children. The majority of speed limit violations in school zones comes during times when children and pedestrians are not prevalent along the roadways. If the reduced speed is in effect during school hours after the children are in class, motorists will not feel compelled to reduce their speeds.

In the interest of continued safety for the school children in our community, we are asking that you please consider voting against this proposed legislation.

Respectfully,

Thomas D. Bussing, Mayor  
City of Gainesville