

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 436 (Senator Stone. *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Vehicle Laws - Speeding Violations in School Zones - Penalties**

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This bill provides that fines for speeding in school zones may be doubled if timed flashing warning lights are displayed and activated in the school zone indicating that fines are doubled. The State Highway Administration (SHA) or a local authority may establish a school zone and set maximum speed limits within a half-mile radius of any school on any highway within their respective jurisdictions. However, the bill specifies that in any school zone where a school crossing guard is posted, the maximum speed limit may not exceed 35 miles per hour. If the local authority requests SHA to establish a school zone the local authority must reimburse SHA the costs of installing and maintaining the traffic control devices. Under existing law only SHA has the authority to establish school zones and to set maximum speed limits. The Chief Judge of the District Court must ensure that fines are doubled for speeding in school zones up to a maximum of \$1,000.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Indeterminate general fund revenue increase from the increased penalty provision. Transportation Trust Fund finances would not be affected.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal increase in expenditures.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Effect:** Currently, speeding violations carry fines ranging from \$60 to \$520 depending upon the miles per hour in excess of the speed limit. The bill would increase the fines to range from \$120 to the maximum fine of \$1,000. In fiscal 1997, there were 391,108 various speeding violations. General fund revenues would increase to the extent that speeding

violations occur in school zones equipped with timed flashing warning lights. However, any revenue increase is expected to be minimal.

At the request of a political subdivision SHA may place traffic control devices along highways in school zones. However, the SHA will be reimbursed for its costs by the local jurisdictions that request the signs and traffic control devices.

**Local Expenditures:** Fines for speeding in school zones are doubled only when timed flashing warning lights are displayed indicating the school zone speed limit. The cost for such a device is approximately \$7,500. The local authority may either install the devices or request SHA to install the devices in the designated school zone. If the local authority request SHA to install the devices, the local authority must reimburse SHA for the costs of installing and maintaining the traffic control devices. Expenditures could increase to the extent that local authorities place, or request SHA to place, traffic control devices along highways in school zones.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Transportation (State Highway Administration, Motor Vehicle Administration), Judiciary (District Court of Maryland), Baltimore City, Caroline County, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 4, 1998  
lc Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 27, 1998  
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