

SENATE BILL REPORT

EHB 1087

As of March 20, 2015

Title: An act relating to automated traffic safety cameras in school speed zones.

Brief Description: Concerning automated traffic safety cameras in school speed zones.

Sponsors: Representatives Takko and Gregerson.

Brief History: Passed House: 3/02/15, 97-0.

Committee Activity: Transportation: 3/16/15.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Kelly Simpson (786-7403)

Background: Under current law, local governments may use automated traffic safety cameras to detect stoplight, railroad crossing, or school speed zone violations. Use of the cameras is restricted to two arterial intersections, railroad crossings, and school speed zones. The cameras may only take pictures of the vehicle and vehicle's license plate while an infraction is occurring, and must not reveal the face of the driver or passengers. Infractions detected through the use of cameras are not part of the registered owner's driving record.

Infractions generated by the use of automated traffic safety cameras are processed in the same manner as parking infractions. The fine issued for an infraction that is detected through the use of an automated traffic safety camera may not exceed the amount of a fine issued for other parking infractions within the jurisdiction.

Summary of Bill: A school speed zone in which an automated traffic safety camera is installed must be marked with a yellow flashing beacon. This beacon must flash only when an automated traffic safety camera is being used, and it may not flash at any other time. Signage that complies with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices must be placed in these locations, and jurisdictions may consult with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission about the signage.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on September 1, 2015.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill is an attempt to get consistency with flashing lights in school speed zones. People are confused about when school speed zone lights should be on. The bill requires simple signage indicating that a school speed zone camera is on when lights are flashing.

OTHER: Clarifying language is requested making the use of flashing lights in school speed zones consistent when a speed camera is in use and when one is not in use.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Takko, prime sponsor.

OTHER: Alex Soldano, city of Tacoma; Bill Stauffacher, American Traffic Solutions.

Persons Signed in to Testify But Not Testifying: No one.