

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 05/04/15

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Meeting Dates:** 05/04

**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen

**Prepared By:** James LaBar, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Expands allowable use of flashing lights in school zones where a school parking lot is located across the street from the school on a street with a posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour or greater.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Past legislation dealing with current school zone restrictions
- Effectiveness of flashing lights to reduce traffic speeds
- Other possible remedies for alleviating this unsafe situation and others in rural Oregon
- Realms of jurisdiction and funding

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

House Bill 2840 (2005) revised school speed zone laws by stipulating that school zone speed limits (20 miles per hour) apply on roads adjacent to schools from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM on school days, or at any time when flashing light traffic control devices are operating that indicate that children may be arriving at, or leaving, the school. At crosswalks marked as school zones, the school zone speed limit is in effect when the flashing light display is active, during posted times, or when children are present, as indicated by posted signage. Prior to House Bill 2840, the Legislative Assembly enacted legislation in 2003 (Senate Bill 179) that established, in cases where the speed limit on the highway leading up to the school zone was 30 miles per hour or less, the school zone speed limit was to be in effect at all times, while if the approaching road speed limit was greater than 30 miles per hour, the school speed zone would be in effect either when warning lights were flashing or during specific hours posted on signs.

Under current law, flashing light devices used as traffic control devices to indicate that children may be arriving at, or leaving, school may only be operated during the hours when children are expected to be arriving or leaving the school facilities. House Bill 3035 specifies that in cases where there is a school parking lot located across the street from the school building, and the street in question has a designated speed limit of 45 miles per hour or greater, that the flashing lights may be used during the hours of 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM.