

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 67

BY REPRESENTATIVE FONTENOT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study the appropriateness of safe school zone speeds on Highway 20 from the city limits of Thibodaux northbound to Highway 304 and Chackbay Elementary School.

WHEREAS, speed limits are established to enhance safety by reducing the risks associated with the actions of irresponsible drivers; and

WHEREAS, a speed limit that is appropriate for the particular road and its setting increases the safety of any place for passage; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 32:63 authorizes the Department of Transportation and Development to employ its engineering and other staff to perform traffic studies and surveys for purposes of establishing safe speed limits considering the conditions of roadways; and

WHEREAS, speed zone studies consider various factors, such as the development of the area, roadway features, traffic volume, accidents, and the speed vehicles are traveling; and

WHEREAS, school buses, 18-wheelers, and many other commercial vehicles traverse highways in the state daily and when these vehicles travel at increased speeds they can negatively impact driver behavior and increase traffic and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, a school guard was fatally killed while performing work duties in the school zone for the Chackbay Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, school zones are designed to keep children safe as they arrive at and leave school; and

WHEREAS, the school zone for the Chackbay Elementary School is currently forty miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, reduced speed limits in school zones will help to minimize injuries and deaths; and

WHEREAS, dedicated traffic control signals or signs will help to enhance highway safety and facilitate orderly movement of traffic while also potentially avoiding injuries and accidents; and

WHEREAS, the installation of traffic control signals may interrupt extremely heavy flows of traffic and permit the crossing and turning of vehicles that could not otherwise move safely through the intersection; and

WHEREAS, given the safety concerns associated with school zones, Louisiana may need to take steps to ensure safety of children in school zones and persons working and traveling said highway by setting proper speed limits in the appropriate areas and if necessary, changing existing speed limits that are not appropriate to the location; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the state of Louisiana to provide for the safety of its citizens to the best of its ability.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study the appropriateness of safe school zones on Highway 20 from the city limits of Thibodaux northbound to Highway 304 and Chackbay Elementary School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department's study shall include a determination of the need for traffic control signals or signs on Highway 20 at Cascade Drive.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and Development shall submit a written report detailing its findings to the Louisiana House of Representatives and the Louisiana Senate prior to March 1, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE