



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

Washington Square Building, Suite 1025  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
Phone: 517/373-6466

**TOWNSHIPS; SPEED LIMIT CHANGES**

**House Bill 5597 as introduced  
First Analysis (5-12-88)**

**RECEIVED**

**Sponsor: Rep. H. Lynn Jondahl  
Committee: Transportation**

JUL 08 1988

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***THE APPARENT PROBLEM:***

Public Act 154 of 1987 was enacted with the intent to allow townships (especially those experiencing rapid growth) to lower the prima facie speed limit (25 miles per hour) on highways around parks and playgrounds. It has been pointed out that the manner in which Public Act 154 amended the Vehicle Code had the effect of giving townships the authority to change speed limits on a much broader basis than intended.

***THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:***

Under the Michigan Vehicle Code, local authorities may establish or increase the prima facie speed limits on highways under their jurisdiction subject to certain limitations. The code defines the term local authority to include the governing body of a city or village and, with the concurrence of the county road commission in certain cases, the township board of a township for a highway within the boundaries of the township. The bill would amend the code to limit the term "local authority" to mean the governing body of a city or village with an exception. An exception would occur when local authorities were authorized to decrease the prima facie speed limits on streets or highways adjacent to publicly owned parks or playgrounds under their jurisdiction; in this case the term local authority would continue to include the county road commission with the concurrence of the township board of a township for a street or highway within the boundaries of the township.

MCL 257.628 and 257.629

***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

According to the House Fiscal Agency, the bill would have no fiscal implications to the state. (5-11-88)

***ARGUMENTS:***

***For:***

The bill will clarify the meaning of the term local authority and specify when townships would be included in the definition of the term, to better reflect the intent of Public Act 154 of 1987. Further, the bill will address an issue raised in debate about the 1987 legislation (House Bill 5009) concerning whether it is prudent to allow townships to raise the prima facie speed limit. The bill will address the concern by providing that the term local authority would only include townships when local authorities were authorized to decrease the prima facie speed limit on streets or highways adjacent to publicly owned parks or playgrounds.

***POSITIONS:***

The County Road Association of Michigan supports the bill. (5-11-88)

The Ingham County Road Commission supports the bill. (5-11-88)

H.B. 5597 (5-12-88)