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LB 91

SENATOR ROBAK: Senator Wehrbein.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: She may have my time.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Robak, you have another three minutes.

SENATOR ROBAK: Senator Wehrbein, those same concerns have been brought to us many times. And if you're talking about blinking lights, the city traffic engineer has the ability to turn them off or on as they see fit, as they...they can designate that. However, we are allowing the Department of Roads manual and uniform traffic control devices to be the guide in setting the rules and regulations on this. And I know it's hard for schools because when you think that kids aren't in school, they could be going, sometimes in the summer, to playground recreation, they could also have classes in the summer, they go back and forth to basketball games, so it's a little hard to say just exactly when this should be in effect or not. This is...the intent here is to reduce the speeding in a school crossing zone mainly because children...we need to protect the children for one thing, that they don't have peripheral vision and they can't see out of the sides of their eyes like you and I can. They step out in front of a car and can't see another car hitting them and they think that...actually sometimes, if they do see a truck or a car coming toward them, they do not know, they can't tell visually if that car is a block away or four blocks away or six blocks away because the car is stationary and just moves toward them. If it was an animal or a dog or a horse and they move, then they could tell that that was approaching them. So this is a safety factor. Hopefully, the Department of Roads, uniform traffic control devices, the Department of Roads will be the guide on this and maybe we will have to work something out. But this is just a law to protect the children as we have protected those that work in construction zones, that I understand your concerns. If there's anything that doesn't work out on this, maybe it can be addressed later with the Department of Roads. Just simply a thing that our children should be safe at all times. We have to stop behind a bus, a school bus, we have to obey those...those laws. And...