As Reported by the House Local Government Committee

131st General Assembly

Regular Session 2015-2016

H. B. No. 455

Representatives Patterson, Roegner
Cosponsors: Representatives O'Brien, M., Rogers, Arndt

A BILL

ГО	amend section 4511.21 of the Revised Code to	1
	authorize a municipal corporation or township to	2
	establish a boarding school zone and a special	3
	speed limit within that zone.	4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 4511.21 of the Revised Code be	5
amended to read as follows:	6
Sec. 4511.21. (A) No person shall operate a motor vehicle,	7
trackless trolley, or streetcar at a speed greater or less than	8
is reasonable or proper, having due regard to the traffic,	9
surface, and width of the street or highway and any other	10
conditions, and no person shall drive any motor vehicle,	11
trackless trolley, or streetcar in and upon any street or	12
highway at a greater speed than will permit the person to bring	13
it to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead.	14
(B) It is prima-facie lawful, in the absence of a lower	15
limit declared or established pursuant to this section by the	16
director of transportation or local authorities, for the	17
operator of a motor vehicle, trackless trolley, or streetcar to	1.9

operate the same at a speed not exceeding the following:

(1)(a) Twenty miles per hour in school zones during school 20 recess and while children are going to or leaving school during 21 the opening or closing hours, and when twenty miles per hour 22 school speed limit signs are erected; except that, on 23 controlled-access highways and expressways, if the right-of-way 24 line fence has been erected without pedestrian opening, the 25 speed shall be governed by division (B) (4) of this section and 26 on freeways, if the right-of-way line fence has been erected 27 without pedestrian opening, the speed shall be governed by 28 29 divisions (B)(9) and (10) of this section. The end of every school zone may be marked by a sign indicating the end of the 30 zone. Nothing in this section or in the manual and 31 specifications for a uniform system of traffic control devices 32 shall be construed to require school zones to be indicated by 33 signs equipped with flashing or other lights, or giving other 34 special notice of the hours in which the school zone speed limit 35 is in effect. 36

(b) As used in this section and in section 4511.212 of the 37 Revised Code, "school" means any school chartered under section 38 3301.16 of the Revised Code and any nonchartered school that 39 during the preceding year filed with the department of education 40 in compliance with rule 3301-35-08 of the Ohio Administrative 41 Code, a copy of the school's report for the parents of the 42 school's pupils certifying that the school meets Ohio minimum 43 standards for nonchartered, nontax-supported schools and 44 presents evidence of this filing to the jurisdiction from which 45 it is requesting the establishment of a school zone. "School" 46 also includes a special elementary school that in writing 47 requests the county engineer of the county in which the special 48 elementary school is located to create a school zone at the 49

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location of that school. Upon receipt of such a written request, the county engineer shall create a school zone at that location by erecting the appropriate signs.

- (c) As used in this section, "school zone" means that 53 portion of a street or highway passing a school fronting upon 54 the street or highway that is encompassed by projecting the 55 school property lines to the fronting street or highway, and 56 also includes that portion of a state highway. Upon request from 57 local authorities for streets and highways under their 58 jurisdiction and that portion of a state highway under the 59 jurisdiction of the director of transportation or a request from 60 a county engineer in the case of a school zone for a special 61 elementary school, the director may extend the traditional 62 school zone boundaries. The distances in divisions (B)(1)(c)(i), 63 (ii), and (iii) of this section shall not exceed three hundred 64 feet per approach per direction and are bounded by whichever of 6.5 the following distances or combinations thereof the director 66 approves as most appropriate: 67
- (i) The distance encompassed by projecting the school building lines normal to the fronting highway and extending a distance of three hundred feet on each approach direction;
- (ii) The distance encompassed by projecting the school property lines intersecting the fronting highway and extending a distance of three hundred feet on each approach direction;
- (iii) The distance encompassed by the special marking of 74 the pavement for a principal school pupil crosswalk plus a 75 distance of three hundred feet on each approach direction of the 76 highway. 77

Nothing in this section shall be construed to invalidate

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the director's initial action on August 9, 1976, establishing all school zones at the traditional school zone boundaries defined by projecting school property lines, except when those boundaries are extended as provided in divisions (B)(1)(a) and (c) of this section.

(d) As used in this division, "crosswalk" has the meaning 84 given that term in division (LL)(2) of section 4511.01 of the 85

Revised Code.

The director may, upon request by resolution of the legislative authority of a municipal corporation, the board of trustees of a township, or a county board of developmental disabilities created pursuant to Chapter 5126. of the Revised Code, and upon submission by the municipal corporation, township, or county board of such engineering, traffic, and other information as the director considers necessary, designate a school zone on any portion of a state route lying within the municipal corporation, lying within the unincorporated territory of the township, or lying adjacent to the property of a school that is operated by such county board, that includes a crosswalk customarily used by children going to or leaving a school during recess and opening and closing hours, whenever the distance, as measured in a straight line, from the school property line nearest the crosswalk to the nearest point of the crosswalk is no more than one thousand three hundred twenty feet. Such a school zone shall include the distance encompassed by the crosswalk and extending three hundred feet on each approach direction of the state route.

- (e) As used in this section, "special elementary school"
 means a school that meets all of the following criteria:
 - (i) It is not chartered and does not receive tax revenue

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from any source.	109
(ii) It does not educate children beyond the eighth grade.	110
(iii) It is located outside the limits of a municipal	111
corporation.	112
(iv) A majority of the total number of students enrolled	113
at the school are not related by blood.	114
(v) The principal or other person in charge of the special	115
elementary school annually sends a report to the superintendent	116
of the school district in which the special elementary school is	117
located indicating the total number of students enrolled at the	118
school, but otherwise the principal or other person in charge	119
does not report any other information or data to the	120
superintendent.	121
(2) Twenty-five miles per hour in all other portions of a	122
municipal corporation, except on state routes outside business	123
districts, through highways outside business districts, and	124
alleys;	125
(3) Thirty-five miles per hour on all state routes or	126
through highways within municipal corporations outside business	127
districts, except as provided in divisions (B)(4) and (6) of	128
this section;	129
(4) Fifty miles per hour on controlled-access highways and	130
expressways within municipal corporations;	131
(5) Fifty-five miles per hour on highways outside	132
municipal corporations, other than highways within island	133
jurisdictions as provided in division (B)(8) of this section,	134
highways as provided in division (B)(9) of this section, and	135
highways, expressways, and freeways as provided in divisions (B)	136

vehicle at all times on all portions of rural divided highways;

vehicle at all times on all rural expressways without traffic

vehicle at all times on all rural freeways;

(14) Seventy miles per hour for operators of any motor

vehicle at all times on all portions of freeways in congested

(15) Fifty-five miles per hour for operators of any motor

control signals;

(13) Sixty-five miles per hour for operators of any motor

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section;

areas as determined by the director and that are part of the	164
interstate system and are located within a municipal corporation	165
or within an interstate freeway outerbelt;	166
(16) Sixty-five miles per hour for operators of any motor	167
vehicle at all times on all portions of freeways in urban areas	168
as determined by the director and that are part of the	169
interstate system and are part of an interstate freeway	170
outerbelt.	171
(C) It is prima-facie unlawful for any person to exceed	172
any of the speed limitations in divisions (B) (1) (a) , (2) , (3) ,	173
(4), (6) , (7) , and (8) of this section, or any declared or	174
established pursuant to this section by the director or local	175
authorities and it is unlawful for any person to exceed any of	176
the speed limitations in division (D) of this section. No person	177
shall be convicted of more than one violation of this section	178
for the same conduct, although violations of more than one	179
provision of this section may be charged in the alternative in a	180
single affidavit.	181
(D) No person shall operate a motor vehicle, trackless	182
trolley, or streetcar upon a street or highway as follows:	183
(1) At a speed exceeding fifty-five miles per hour, except	184
upon a two-lane state route as provided in division (B)(9) of	185
this section and upon a highway, expressway, or freeway as	186
provided in divisions (B)(12), (13), (14), and (16) of this	187
section;	188
(2) At a speed exceeding sixty miles per hour upon a two-	189
lane state route as provided in division (B)(9) of this section	190
and upon a highway as provided in division (B)(12) of this	191

- (3) At a speed exceeding sixty-five miles per hour upon an 193 expressway as provided in division (B)(13) or upon a freeway as 194 provided in division (B)(16) of this section, except upon a 195 freeway as provided in division (B)(14) of this section; 196
- (4) At a speed exceeding seventy miles per hour upon a
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 freeway as provided in division (B) (14) of this section;
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- (5) At a speed exceeding the posted speed limit upon a 199 highway, expressway, or freeway for which the director has 200 determined and declared a speed limit pursuant to division (I) 201 (2) or (L)(2) of this section.
- (E) In every charge of violation of this section the 203 affidavit and warrant shall specify the time, place, and speed 204 at which the defendant is alleged to have driven, and in charges 205 made in reliance upon division (C) of this section also the 206 speed which division (B) (1) (a), (2), (3), (4), (6), (7), or (8)207 of, or a limit declared or established pursuant to, this section 208 declares is prima-facie lawful at the time and place of such 209 alleged violation, except that in affidavits where a person is 210 alleged to have driven at a greater speed than will permit the 211 212 person to bring the vehicle to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead the affidavit and warrant need not specify the 213 speed at which the defendant is alleged to have driven. 214
- 215 (F) When a speed in excess of both a prima-facie limitation and a limitation in division (D) of this section is 216 alleged, the defendant shall be charged in a single affidavit, 217 alleging a single act, with a violation indicated of both 218 division (B) (1) (a), (2), (3), (4), (6), (7), or (8) of this 219 section, or of a limit declared or established pursuant to this 220 section by the director or local authorities, and of the 221 limitation in division (D) of this section. If the court finds a 222

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- violation of division (B)(1)(a), (2), (3), (4), (6), (7), or (8) of, or a limit declared or established pursuant to, this section has occurred, it shall enter a judgment of conviction under such division and dismiss the charge under division (D) of this section. If it finds no violation of division (B)(1)(a), (2), (3), (4), (6), (7), or (8) of, or a limit declared or established pursuant to, this section, it shall then consider whether the evidence supports a conviction under division (D) of this section.
- (G) Points shall be assessed for violation of a limitation under division (D) of this section in accordance with section 4510.036 of the Revised Code.
- (H) (1) Whenever the director determines upon the basis of a geometric and traffic characteristic study that any speed limit set forth in divisions (B) (1) (a) to (D) of this section is greater or less than is reasonable or safe under the conditions found to exist at any portion of a street or highway under the jurisdiction of the director, the director shall determine and declare a reasonable and safe prima-facie speed limit, which shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice of it are erected at the location.
- (2) Whenever the director determines upon the basis of a geometric and traffic characteristic study that the speed limit of fifty-five miles per hour on a two-lane state route outside a municipal corporation is less than is reasonable or safe under the conditions found to exist at that portion of the state route, the director may determine and declare a speed limit of sixty miles per hour for that portion of the state route, which shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice of it are erected at the location.

(I)(1) Except as provided in divisions (I)(2) and (K) of	253
this section, whenever local authorities determine upon the	254
basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that the speed	255
permitted by divisions (B)(1)(a) to (D) of this section, on any	256
part of a highway under their jurisdiction, is greater than is	257
reasonable and safe under the conditions found to exist at such	258
location, the local authorities may by resolution request the	259
director to determine and declare a reasonable and safe prima-	260
facie speed limit. Upon receipt of such request the director may	261
determine and declare a reasonable and safe prima-facie speed	262
limit at such location, and if the director does so, then such	263
declared speed limit shall become effective only when	264
appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected at such	265
location by the local authorities. The director may withdraw the	266
declaration of a prima-facie speed limit whenever in the	267
director's opinion the altered prima-facie speed becomes	268
unreasonable. Upon such withdrawal, the declared prima-facie	269
speed shall become ineffective and the signs relating thereto	270
shall be immediately removed by the local authorities.	271

(2) A local authority may determine on the basis of a 272 geometric and traffic characteristic study that the speed limit 273 of sixty-five miles per hour on a portion of a freeway under its 274 jurisdiction that was established through the operation of 275 division (L)(3) of this section is greater than is reasonable or 276 safe under the conditions found to exist at that portion of the 277 freeway. If the local authority makes such a determination, the 278 local authority by resolution may request the director to 279 determine and declare a reasonable and safe speed limit of not 280 less than fifty-five miles per hour for that portion of the 281 freeway. If the director takes such action, the declared speed 282 limit becomes effective only when appropriate signs giving 283

notice of it are erected at such location by the local	284
authority.	285
(J) Local authorities in their respective jurisdictions	286
may authorize by ordinance higher prima-facie speeds than those	287
stated in this section upon through highways, or upon highways	288
or portions thereof where there are no intersections, or between	289
widely spaced intersections, provided signs are erected giving	290
notice of the authorized speed, but local authorities shall not	291
modify or alter the basic rule set forth in division (A) of this	292
section or in any event authorize by ordinance a speed in excess	293
of fifty miles per hour.	294
Alteration of prima-facie limits on state routes by local	295
authorities shall not be effective until the alteration has been	296
approved by the director. The director may withdraw approval of	297
any altered prima-facie speed limits whenever in the director's	298
opinion any altered prima-facie speed becomes unreasonable, and	299
upon such withdrawal, the altered prima-facie speed shall become	300
ineffective and the signs relating thereto shall be immediately	301
removed by the local authorities.	302
(K)(1) As used in divisions (K)(1), (2), (3), and (4) of	303
this section, "unimproved highway" means a highway consisting of	304
any of the following:	305
(a) Unimproved earth;	306
(b) Unimproved graded and drained earth;	307
(c) Gravel.	308
(2) Except as otherwise provided in divisions (K)(4) and	309
(5) of this section, whenever a board of township trustees	310
determines upon the basis of an engineering and traffic	311
investigation that the speed permitted by division (B)(5) of	312

this section on any part of an unimproved highway under its	313
jurisdiction and in the unincorporated territory of the township	314
is greater than is reasonable or safe under the conditions found	315
to exist at the location, the board may by resolution declare a	316
reasonable and safe prima-facie speed limit of fifty-five but	317
not less than twenty-five miles per hour. An altered speed limit	318
adopted by a board of township trustees under this division	319
becomes effective when appropriate traffic control devices, as	320
prescribed in section 4511.11 of the Revised Code, giving notice	321
thereof are erected at the location, which shall be no sooner	322
than sixty days after adoption of the resolution.	323

- (3) (a) Whenever, in the opinion of a board of township trustees, any altered prima-facie speed limit established by the board under this division becomes unreasonable, the board may adopt a resolution withdrawing the altered prima-facie speed limit. Upon the adoption of such a resolution, the altered prima-facie speed limit becomes ineffective and the traffic control devices relating thereto shall be immediately removed.
- (b) Whenever a highway ceases to be an unimproved highway and the board has adopted an altered prima-facie speed limit pursuant to division (K)(2) of this section, the board shall, by resolution, withdraw the altered prima-facie speed limit as soon as the highway ceases to be unimproved. Upon the adoption of such a resolution, the altered prima-facie speed limit becomes ineffective and the traffic control devices relating thereto shall be immediately removed.
- (4) (a) If the boundary of two townships rests on the 339 centerline of an unimproved highway in unincorporated territory 340 and both townships have jurisdiction over the highway, neither 341 of the boards of township trustees of such townships may declare 342

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an altered prima-facie speed limit pursuant to division (k)(2)	343
of this section on the part of the highway under their joint	344
jurisdiction unless the boards of township trustees of both of	345
the townships determine, upon the basis of an engineering and	346
traffic investigation, that the speed permitted by division (B)	347
(5) of this section is greater than is reasonable or safe under	348
the conditions found to exist at the location and both boards	349
agree upon a reasonable and safe prima-facie speed limit of less	350
than fifty-five but not less than twenty-five miles per hour for	351
that location. If both boards so agree, each shall follow the	352
procedure specified in division (K)(2) of this section for	353
altering the prima-facie speed limit on the highway. Except as	354
otherwise provided in division (K)(4)(b) of this section, no	355
speed limit altered pursuant to division (K)(4)(a) of this	356
section may be withdrawn unless the boards of township trustees	357
of both townships determine that the altered prima-facie speed	358
limit previously adopted becomes unreasonable and each board	359
adopts a resolution withdrawing the altered prima-facie speed	360
limit pursuant to the procedure specified in division (K)(3)(a)	361
of this section.	362

- (b) Whenever a highway described in division (K)(4)(a) of this section ceases to be an unimproved highway and two boards of township trustees have adopted an altered prima-facie speed limit pursuant to division (K)(4)(a) of this section, both boards shall, by resolution, withdraw the altered prima-facie speed limit as soon as the highway ceases to be unimproved. Upon the adoption of the resolution, the altered prima-facie speed limit becomes ineffective and the traffic control devices relating thereto shall be immediately removed.
 - (5) As used in division (K)(5) of this section:

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- (a) "Commercial subdivision" means any platted territory 373 outside the limits of a municipal corporation and fronting a 374 highway where, for a distance of three hundred feet or more, the 375 frontage is improved with buildings in use for commercial 376 purposes, or where the entire length of the highway is less than 377 three hundred feet long and the frontage is improved with 378 buildings in use for commercial purposes. 379
- (b) "Residential subdivision" means any platted territory outside the limits of a municipal corporation and fronting a highway, where, for a distance of three hundred feet or more, the frontage is improved with residences or residences and buildings in use for business, or where the entire length of the highway is less than three hundred feet long and the frontage is improved with residences or residences and buildings in use for business.

Whenever a board of township trustees finds upon the basis 388 of an engineering and traffic investigation that the prima-facie 389 speed permitted by division (B)(5) of this section on any part 390 of a highway under its jurisdiction that is located in a 391 commercial or residential subdivision, except on highways or 392 portions thereof at the entrances to which vehicular traffic 393 from the majority of intersecting highways is required to yield 394 the right-of-way to vehicles on such highways in obedience to 395 stop or yield signs or traffic control signals, is greater than 396 is reasonable and safe under the conditions found to exist at 397 the location, the board may by resolution declare a reasonable 398 and safe prima-facie speed limit of less than fifty-five but not 399 less than twenty-five miles per hour at the location. An altered 400 speed limit adopted by a board of township trustees under this 401 division shall become effective when appropriate signs giving 402 notice thereof are erected at the location by the township. 403

Whenever, in the opinion of a board of township trustees, any	404
altered prima-facie speed limit established by it under this	405
division becomes unreasonable, it may adopt a resolution	406
withdrawing the altered prima-facie speed, and upon such	407
withdrawal, the altered prima-facie speed shall become	408
ineffective, and the signs relating thereto shall be immediately	409
removed by the township.	410
(L) (1) On-the effective date of this amendment September	411
29, 2013, the director of transportation, based upon an	412
engineering study of a highway, expressway, or freeway described	413
in division (B)(12), (13), (14), (15), or (16) of this section,	414
in consultation with the director of public safety and, if	415
applicable, the local authority having jurisdiction over the	416
studied highway, expressway, or freeway, may determine and	417
declare that the speed limit established on such highway,	418
expressway, or freeway under division (B)(12), (13), (14), (15),	419
or (16) of this section either is reasonable and safe or is more	420
or less than that which is reasonable and safe.	421
(2) If the established speed limit for a highway,	422
expressway, or freeway studied pursuant to division (L)(1) of	423
this section is determined to be more or less than that which is	424
reasonable and safe, the director of transportation, in	425
consultation with the director of public safety and, if	426
applicable, the local authority having jurisdiction over the	427
studied highway, expressway, or freeway, shall determine and	428
declare a reasonable and safe speed limit for that highway,	429
expressway, or freeway.	430
$\frac{(N)(M)}{(M)}$ (1)(a) If the boundary of two local authorities	431
rests on the centerline of a highway and both authorities have	432

jurisdiction over the highway, the speed limit for the part of

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the highway within their joint jurisdiction shall be either one	434
of the following as agreed to by both authorities:	435
(i) Either prima-facie speed limit permitted by division	436
(B) of this section;	437
	10.
(ii) An altered speed limit determined and posted in	438
accordance with this section.	439
(b) If the local authorities are unable to reach an	440
agreement, the speed limit shall remain as established and	441
posted under this section.	442
(2) Neither local authority may declare an altered prima-	443
facie speed limit pursuant to this section on the part of the	444
highway under their joint jurisdiction unless both of the local	445
authorities determine, upon the basis of an engineering and	446
traffic investigation, that the speed permitted by this section	447
is greater than is reasonable or safe under the conditions found	448
to exist at the location and both authorities agree upon a	449
uniform reasonable and safe prima-facie speed limit of less than	450
fifty-five but not less than twenty-five miles per hour for that	451
location. If both authorities so agree, each shall follow the	452
procedure specified in this section for altering the prima-facie	453
speed limit on the highway, and the speed limit for the part of	454
the highway within their joint jurisdiction shall be uniformly	455
altered. No altered speed limit may be withdrawn unless both	456
local authorities determine that the altered prima-facie speed	457
limit previously adopted becomes unreasonable and each adopts a	458
resolution withdrawing the altered prima-facie speed limit	459
pursuant to the procedure specified in this section.	460
(N) The legislative authority of a municipal corporation_	461
or township in which a boarding school is located, by resolution	462

or ordinance, may establish a boarding school zone. The	463
legislative authority may alter the speed limit on any street or	464
highway within the boarding school zone and shall specify the	465
hours during which the altered speed limit is in effect. For	466
purposes of determining the boundaries of the boarding school	467
zone, the altered speed limit within the boarding school zone,	468
and the hours the altered speed limit is in effect, the	469
legislative authority shall consult with the administration of	470
the boarding school and with the county engineer or other	471
appropriate engineer, as applicable. A boarding school zone	472
speed limit becomes effective only when appropriate signs giving	473
notice thereof are erected at the appropriate locations.	474
(O) As used in this section:	475
(1) "Interstate system" has the same meaning as in 23	476
U.S.C.A. 101.	477
(2) "Commercial bus" means a motor vehicle designed for	478
carrying more than nine passengers and used for the	479
transportation of persons for compensation.	480
(3) "Noncommercial bus" includes but is not limited to a	481
school bus or a motor vehicle operated solely for the	482
transportation of persons associated with a charitable or	483
nonprofit organization.	484
(4) "Outerbelt" means a portion of a freeway that is part	485
of the interstate system and is located in the outer vicinity of	486
a major municipal corporation or group of municipal	487
corporations, as designated by the director.	488
(5) "Rural" means outside urbanized areas, as designated	489
in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 101, and outside of a business or	490
urban district.	491

(P)(1) A violation of any provision of this section is one	492
of the following:	493
(a) Except as otherwise provided in divisions (P)(1)(b),	494
(1)(c), (2), and (3) of this section, a minor misdemeanor;	495
(b) If, within one year of the offense, the offender	496
previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to two	497
violations of any provision of this section or of any provision	498
of a municipal ordinance that is substantially similar to any	499
provision of this section, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree;	500
(c) If, within one year of the offense, the offender	501
previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to three or	502
more violations of any provision of this section or of any	503
provision of a municipal ordinance that is substantially similar	504
to any provision of this section, a misdemeanor of the third	505
degree.	506
(2) If the offender has not previously been convicted of	507
or pleaded guilty to a violation of any provision of this	508
section or of any provision of a municipal ordinance that is	509
substantially similar to this section and operated a motor	510
vehicle faster than thirty-five miles an hour in a business	511
district of a municipal corporation, faster than fifty miles an	512
hour in other portions of a municipal corporation, or faster	513
than thirty-five miles an hour in a school zone during recess or	514
while children are going to or leaving school during the	515
school's opening or closing hours, a misdemeanor of the fourth	516
degree.	517
(3) Notwithstanding division (P)(1) of this section, if	518
the offender operated a motor vehicle in a construction zone	519
where a sign was then posted in accordance with section 4511.98	520

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of the Revised Code, the court, in addition to all other	521
penalties provided by law, shall impose upon the offender a fine	522
of two times the usual amount imposed for the violation. No	523
court shall impose a fine of two times the usual amount imposed	524
for the violation upon an offender if the offender alleges, in	525
an affidavit filed with the court prior to the offender's	526
sentencing, that the offender is indigent and is unable to pay	527
the fine imposed pursuant to this division and if the court	528
determines that the offender is an indigent person and unable to	529
pay the fine.	530
Section 2. That existing section 4511.21 of the Revised	531
Code is hereby repealed.	532