



STATE SENATOR
CHARLETA B. TAVARES

15TH DISTRICT

Sponsor Testimony
Presented by: Senator Charleta B. Tavares
Senate Bill 111
Government Oversight and Reform
Senator William P. Coley, II, Chair
Thursday, December 6, 2018

Good morning, Chairman Coley, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 111 which will require school zone speed limit signs to be placed at the beginning of a school zone.

Senate Bill 111 is the result of a concerned constituent who brought this issue to my attention. Currently, signage indicating school zones can vary throughout districts. For example, a sign may indicate that an area is a school zone during restricted hours, but fail to list the hours of

restriction. Another sign may state that a school zone is in effect only when students are present, while another sign may have flashing lights which indicate that a school zone is in effect. This lack of uniformity is confusing for both students and drivers and places the safety of our children at risk. Senate Bill 111 will help to solve this confusion by creating a more uniformed standard for school zone signs in Ohio.

In detail, SB 111 will require the beginning of a school zone to be marked with either a sign that gives notice of the hours of when the school zone speed limit will be in effect, or a sign with flashing lights to indicate that the school zone speed limit is in effect. The lights must be activated with a time clock. The Department of Transportation (ODOT) will establish the standards for these signs. Under the provisions of the bill, ODOT must also provide funding for all equipment necessary for the change of signage.

Senate Bill 111 is a common sense bill that puts the safety of Ohio's children first and makes our school zones safer for Ohio drivers as well.

Chairman Coley and members of the Committee, I appreciate your attention to this important issue and I respectfully request your favorable consideration and passage of Senate Bill 111. Thank you and I am happy to respond to questions from the committee.