



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Joseph G. Aninao

H.B. 523

130th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Stinziano and Retherford, Curtin, Grossman, R. Hagan, Mallory, Phillips

BILL SUMMARY

Petition for a reduced speed limit

- Authorizes a person who resides on a street with a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less or a recognized neighborhood organization that represents an area which includes such a street to submit a petition to the Director of Transportation supporting a request made by a local authority for a lower speed limit.
- Requires the petition to contain the signatures of not less than 51% of the persons who own real property located on the portion of the street at issue.
- Requires the Director, in making a determination regarding the speed limit modification, to take into account and give due consideration to the petition.

Petition for the installation of a stop sign

- Permits either of the following to submit a petition to the Director or the proper local authority requesting that a stop sign be erected at a location of an intersection at which a stop sign currently is not present:
 - A person who resides within a .25 mile radius of the intersection location if the intersection is within a municipal corporation;
 - A person who resides within a .5 mile radius of the intersection if the intersection is not within a municipal corporation; or
 - A recognized neighborhood association or organization that represents the area within which the intersection location is located.

- Requires the petition to contain the signatures of not less than 51% of the persons who own real property within a .25 mile radius of the intersection located within a municipal corporation, or a .5 mile radius of an intersection located outside a municipal corporation, as applicable.
- Requires the Director or local authority, when determining whether a stop sign should be erected, in addition to consulting the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, to take into account and give due consideration to the petition.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Petition for a reduced speed limit

Current law permits a local authority, upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, to adopt a resolution requesting the Director of Transportation to determine and declare a reduced prima-facie speed limit on any part of a highway under its jurisdiction.¹

In the case of such a request regarding a street or highway with a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less, the bill provides that either of the following may submit a petition to the Director supporting a request for the lower prima-facie speed limit:

(1) A person who resides on the street or highway; or

(2) A recognized neighborhood association or organization that represents the area within which the street or highway is located.²

The petition must specify the portion of the street or highway that the person or association or organization desires to be the subject of the speed limit reduction by describing with reasonable specificity the portion at issue. The petition also must contain the signatures of not less than 51% of the persons who own real property located on the portion of the street or highway at issue.

Upon receipt of such a petition, the Director, in making a determination regarding the speed limit modification, is required to take into account and give due consideration to the petition in determining whether to declare a lower prima-facie speed limit on the portion of the street or highway specified in the petition. The Director

¹ R.C. 4511.21(I)(1)(a).

² R.C. 4511.21(I)(1)(b)(i) and (ii).

is required to notify the person or association or organization in writing of the Director's decision regarding the requested lower prima-facie speed limit.³

Petition for the installation of stop signs

The bill permits either of the following to submit a petition to the Director of Transportation or the proper local authority, as the case may be, requesting that a stop sign be erected at a location of an intersection at which a stop sign currently is not present:

(1) A person who resides within a one-quarter mile radius of the intersection location if the intersection location lies within the boundaries of a municipal corporation, or a person who resides within a one-half mile radius of the intersection location if the intersection location does not lie within the boundaries of a municipal corporation;

(2) A recognized neighborhood association or organization that represents the area within which the intersection location is located.⁴

The petition must specify the intersection location at which the person or association or organization desires the stop sign to be erected by describing the intersection location with specificity. If the intersection location is located within the boundaries of a municipal corporation, the petition also must contain the signatures of not less than 51% of the persons who own real property within a one-quarter mile radius of the intersection location. If the intersection location is not located within the boundaries of a municipal corporation, the petition also must contain the signatures of not less than 51% of the persons who own real property within a one-half mile radius of the intersection location.⁵

Upon receipt of such a petition, the Director or local authority must determine whether a stop sign should be erected at the intersection location. The Director or local authority, in addition to consulting the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (OMUTCD), is required to take into account and give due consideration to the petition in determining whether to erect the stop sign requested in the petition. The Director or local authority must notify the person or association or organization in writing of the Director's or local authority's decision regarding the requested stop sign.

³ R.C. 4511.21(I)(1)(b).

⁴ R.C. 4511.11(B)(1)(a) and (b).

⁵ R.C. 4511.11(B)(2).



If the Director or local authority determines that a stop sign should be erected at the intersection location, the Director is required to enter the determination into the Director's journal, or the local authority is required to issue a written determination. The Director or local authority must install the stop sign at the intersection location not later than 30 days after the date the Director enters the determination into the Director's journal or the local authority issues the written determination.⁶

Under the bill, the provision of existing law that requires local authorities to place and maintain traffic control devices in accordance with the OMUTCD upon highways under their jurisdiction is made subject to the bill's new provisions relating to the petition process for the installation of stop signs.⁷

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	04-22-14

H0523-I-130.docx/ks

⁶ R.C. 4511.11(B)(3).

⁷ R.C. 4511.11(A).

