Fiscal Services Division
Legislative Services Agency
Fiscal Note

HF 2413 – Speed Violations in Work Zones (LSB 5483 HV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

House File 2413 provides increased penalties for speed violations by a motor vehicle operator in a road work zone:

- $150 for speed up to 10 miles per hour (mph) over the posted speed limit.
- $300 for speed greater than 10 mph but less than 20 mph over the speed limit.
- $500 for speed greater than 20 mph but less than 25 mph over the speed limit.
- $1,000 for speed greater than 25 mph over the posted speed limit.

Background

1. A road work zone is identified by posted or moving signs at the site of construction, maintenance, survey, or utility work. The zone starts at the first sign identifying the zone and continues until a posted or moving sign indicates that the work zone has ended.

2. The signs for Interstates and expressways are large signs (11 feet by five feet) and posted on extruded aluminum panels. These signs are installed by contract. The signs on primary highways are smaller signs (four feet by eight feet) made of plywood. These signs are installed by the Department of Transportation (DOT) maintenance personnel.

3. In one year, approximately 5.0% of existing signs are replaced at a cost of approximately $9,000 from the Primary Road Fund.

4. In calendar year 2007, 523 tickets were written for separate violations in a construction zone. Of these, 143 tickets were written by the Iowa State Patrol for speeding violations.

5. If the ticket is written by local law enforcement, 90.0% of the fine revenue goes to the city that wrote the ticket and 10.0% of the fine revenue goes to the State General Fund.

6. If the ticket is written by the County Sheriff, the County receives $5 through the County Enforcement Surcharge and the fine goes to the State General Fund.

7. If the ticket is written by the Iowa State Patrol, the revenue is deposited in the State General Fund.

8. An increased fine will increase the amount of revenue collected from the 32.0% Criminal Penalty Surcharge. Of the 32.0% Criminal Penalty Surcharge, 5.0% goes to the counties, and 95.0% goes to the State. Of the State's 95.0%, 17.0% goes to the Victim Compensation Fund and 83.0% goes to the State General Fund. The 32.0% surcharge applies to a violation of State law, or a city or county ordinance, except an ordinance regulating the parking of motor vehicles.

Assumptions

1. The new signs would replace the existing "Fines Double in Work Zones/Road Workers Give Em a Brake" signs that are currently located along the State highways in Iowa.
2. Only the signs would be replaced. The sign posts and footings would be reused.
3. New signs on Interstates and expressways would cost approximately $1,400 per sign and approximately 84 signs would be replaced.
4. New signs on primary highways (two-lane) would cost approximately $400 per sign and approximately 159 signs would be replaced.
5. As fine amounts increase, the collection rate tends to decrease. Based on increased fine amounts, a 52.0% collection rate is assumed in the first year.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact to the DOT would be $172,000 in one-time costs from the Primary Road Fund for the installation of new signs.

The amount of revenue generated from the increased speeding fines and Criminal Penalty Surcharge application will be approximately $80,000. The jurisdiction writing the ticket will determine how the revenue is distributed among the State General Fund, counties, cities, and the Victim Compensation Fund.

Sources

Department of Transportation
Department of Human Rights, Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division
Department of Public Safety
Judicial Branch

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 4, 2008

The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Fiscal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency to members of the Legislature upon request.