

Date of Hearing: January 11, 2016

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

AB 1115 (Salas) – As Amended January 4, 2016

AS PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED IN COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: State Highways: school zones: State Route 184

SUMMARY: As proposed to be amended, designates a school zone on State Route (SR) 184 near Sunset Middle School in Kern County.

EXISTING LAW: Generally establishes a prima facie speed limit of 25 miles per hour (MPH) in school zones.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: Since 2010, there have been over 20 collisions near the intersection of SR 184 and Sunset Boulevard in Kern County, several of the collisions resulting in fatalities. The intersection is the main access point to Sunset Middle School. Stop signs control traffic traveling east and west on Sunset Boulevard but traffic traveling north and south on SR 184 does stop.

According to the author, the local school district and local residents have long sought traffic control devices, such as stop lights, flashing lights, rumble strips, and even an all-way stop at this intersection to improve safety. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) recently evaluated the intersection and determined that an all-way stop was not warranted. However, the department has committed to installing a number of flashing beacons, warning signs, and lighted stop signs at this intersection.

Nonetheless, the author remains concerned that the installations make take too long and that these measures may be insufficient in slowing traffic on SR 184 approaching the school. As a result, the author intends to amend AB 1115 in committee to designate a school zone on SR 184 near Sunset Middle School. The area is not eligible for such a designation under existing law because the school is not directly contiguous to SR 184; it is separated by a fence. Designating this area as a school zone will facilitate slowing traffic speeds approaching this intersection.

Limiting this bill to designation of a school zone at this particular location is a measured approach to this complicated, troubling, lingering safety problem.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Janet Dawson / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093