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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 1801**

2 Offered January 13, 2025

3 Prefiled January 6, 2025

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-873 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school crossing zones.*

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6 Patron—Cohen

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8 Referred to Committee on Transportation

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10 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**11 **1. That § 46.2-873 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**12 **§ 46.2-873. Maximum speed limits at school crossings; penalty.**13 A. For the purposes of this section, "school crossing zone" means an area located within the vicinity of a  
14 school at or near a highway where the presence of children on such school property or going to and from  
15 school reasonably requires a special warning to motorists. Such zones are marked and operated in accordance  
16 with the requirements of this section with appropriate warning signs or other traffic control devices indicating  
17 that a school crossing is in progress.18 B. The maximum speed limit shall be 25 miles per hour between portable signs, tilt-over signs, or fixed  
19 blinking signs placed in or along any highway and bearing the word "school" or "school crossing." Any signs  
20 erected under this section shall be placed not more than 750 1,500 feet from the limits of the school property  
21 or crossing in the vicinity of the school. However, "school crossing" signs may be placed in any location if  
22 the Department of Transportation or the council of the city or town or the board of supervisors of a county  
23 maintaining its own system of secondary roads approves the crossing for such signs. If the portion of the  
24 highway to be posted is within the limits of a city or town, such portable signs shall be furnished and  
25 delivered by such city or town. If the portion of highway to be posted is outside the limits of a city or town,  
26 such portable signs shall be furnished and delivered by the Department of Transportation. The principal or  
27 chief administrative officer of each school or a school board designee, preferably not a classroom teacher,  
28 shall place such portable signs in the highway at a point not more than 750 1,500 feet from the limits of the  
29 school property and remove such signs when their presence is no longer required by this section. Such  
30 portable signs, tilt-over signs, or fixed blinking signs shall be placed in a position plainly visible to vehicular  
31 traffic approaching from either direction, but shall not be placed so as to obstruct the roadway.32 C. Such portable signs, tilt-over signs, or blinking signs shall be in a position, or be turned on, for 30  
33 minutes preceding regular school hours, for 30 minutes thereafter, and during such other times as the  
34 presence of children on such school property or going to and from school reasonably requires a special  
35 warning to motorists. The governing body of any county, city, or town may, however, decrease the period of  
36 time preceding and following regular school hours during which such portable signs, tilt-over signs, or  
37 blinking signs shall be in position or lit if it determines that no children will be going to or from school during  
38 the period of time that it subtracts from the 30-minute period.39 D. The governing body of any city or town may, if the portion of the highway to be posted is within the  
40 limits of such city or town, increase or decrease the speed limit provided in this section only after justification  
41 for such increase or decrease has been shown by an engineering and traffic investigation, and no such  
42 increase or decrease in speed limit shall be effective unless such increased or decreased speed limit is  
43 conspicuously posted on the portable signs, tilt-over signs, or fixed blinking signs required by this section.44 E. The governing body of a county within Planning District 8 may, if the portion of the highway to be  
45 posted is within the limits of such county, increase or decrease the speed limit provided in this section only  
46 after justification for such increase or decrease has been shown by an engineering and traffic investigation,  
47 and no such increase or decrease in speed limit shall be effective unless such increased or decreased speed  
48 limit is conspicuously posted on the portable signs, tilt-over signs, or fixed blinking signs required by this  
49 section.50 F. The City of Virginia Beach may establish school zones as provided in this section and mark such zones  
51 with flashing warning lights as provided in this section on and along all highways adjacent to Route 58.52 G. Any person operating any motor vehicle in excess of a maximum speed limit established specifically  
53 for a school crossing zone when such school crossing zone is (i) indicated by appropriately placed signs  
54 displaying the maximum speed limit and (ii) in operation pursuant to subsection B shall be guilty of a traffic  
55 infraction punishable by a fine of not more than \$250, in addition to other penalties provided by law.56 H. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, the maximum speed limit in school zones in  
57 residential areas may be decreased to 15 miles per hour if (i) the school board having jurisdiction over the  
58 school nearest to the affected school zone passes a resolution requesting the reduction of the maximum speed  
limit for such school zone from 25 miles per hour to 15 miles per hour and (ii) the local governing body of

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59 the jurisdiction in which such school is located enacts an ordinance establishing the speed-limit reduction  
60 requested by the school board.