

**NOTE: This bill has been prepared for the signatures of the appropriate legislative officers and the Governor. To determine whether the Governor has signed the bill or taken other action on it, please consult the legislative status sheet, the legislative history, or the Session Laws.**

# An Act

HOUSE BILL 26-1318

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Nguyen and Froelich, Boesenecker, Brown, Duran, Goldstein, Hamrick, Joseph, Lindsay, Rutinel, Stewart R., Story, Willford, Bacon, Camacho, Clifford, Garcia, Jackson, Lieder, Lukens, Paschal, Phillips, Rydin, Smith, Stewart K., Titone, Valdez;  
also SENATOR(S) Cutter, Amabile, Ball, Benavidez, Bridges, Carson, Catlin, Daugherty, Exum, Frizell, Gonzales J., Hinrichsen, Jodeh, Kipp, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Lindstedt, Liston, Marchman, Mullica, Pelton R., Roberts, Rodriguez, Simpson, Snyder, Sullivan, Wallace, Weissman, Coleman.

CONCERNING TRAFFIC SAFETY NEAR SCHOOLS.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1. Short title.** The short title of this act is the "Liam Stewart School Zone Act".

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-615, **amend** (2); and **add** (4) and (5) as follows:

**42-4-615. School zones - increase in penalties for moving traffic violations.**

*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.*

(2) (a) ~~For the purposes of AS USED IN this section, "school zone"~~ means ~~an area that is designated as a school zone and has~~ ALL ROADWAYS WITHIN AT LEAST ONE THOUSAND FEET OF A SCHOOL PROPERTY BOUNDARY; EXCEPT THAT:

(I) STATE HIGHWAYS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 42-4-110.5, ARE NOT INCLUDED IN A SCHOOL ZONE UNLESS DESIGNATED AS PART OF A SCHOOL ZONE BY THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OR BY A COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY, OR MUNICIPALITY WITH THE WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION;

(II) A SCHOOL ZONE THAT EXISTS ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION (2) THAT EXTENDS MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED FEET FROM A SCHOOL PROPERTY BOUNDARY IS THE SCHOOL ZONE FOR THAT SCHOOL PROPERTY; AND

(III) IF A COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY, OR MUNICIPALITY THAT HAS JURISDICTION OVER A SCHOOL ZONE REDUCES THE SIZE OF THE SCHOOL ZONE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION, THEN ONLY THE REDUCED SCHOOL ZONE IS THE SCHOOL ZONE FOR THAT SCHOOL PROPERTY.

(b) IF A SCHOOL ZONE EXISTING PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a)(II) OF THIS SECTION IS LESS THAN TWO HUNDRED FEET FROM A SCHOOL PROPERTY, THE COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY, OR MUNICIPALITY THAT HAS JURISDICTION OVER THE SCHOOL ZONE MUST INCREASE THE SCHOOL ZONE TO A MINIMUM OF TWO HUNDRED FEET.

(c) A SCHOOL ZONE MUST HAVE appropriate signs posted indicating A SCHOOL ZONE AND INDICATING that the penalties and surcharges WITHIN A SCHOOL ZONE will be doubled. The state or local government having jurisdiction over the placement of traffic signs and traffic control devices in ~~the~~ A school zone area shall designate ~~when~~ the area ~~will be~~ deemed to be a school zone for the purposes of this section, ~~In making such designation, the state or local government shall consider when increased penalties are necessary to protect the safety of school children~~ WHICH, EXCEPT IF REDUCED AS PERMITTED IN SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION, MUST INCLUDE ALL ROADWAYS WITHIN ONE THOUSAND FEET OF THE SCHOOL PROPERTY BOUNDARY AND SHALL POST THE SIGNS REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION. FOR SCHOOL ZONES EXISTING PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a)(II)

OF THIS SECTION, SIGNAGE THAT EXISTS ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION (2) MEETS THE SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS SUBSECTION.

(d) A COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY, OR MUNICIPALITY SHALL COMPILE A LIST OF SCHOOLS FOR WHICH IT MUST DETERMINE SCHOOL ZONES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. A COUNTY, A CITY AND COUNTY, OR MUNICIPALITY HAS THE AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE WHICH SCHOOLS TO INCLUDE ON THE LIST.

(4) A COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY, OR MUNICIPALITY THAT HAS JURISDICTION OVER A SCHOOL ZONE MAY REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE SCHOOL ZONE TO EXTEND TO LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND FEET FROM A SCHOOL PROPERTY BOUNDARY BUT SHALL NOT REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE SCHOOL ZONE TO LESS THAN TWO HUNDRED FEET FROM A SCHOOL PROPERTY BOUNDARY. A COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY, OR MUNICIPALITY SHALL NOT REDUCE THE SIZE OF A SCHOOL ZONE WITHOUT FIRST HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING.

(5) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION PROHIBITS A COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY, OR MUNICIPALITY FROM INCREASING THE SIZE OF A SCHOOL ZONE TO LARGER THAN ONE THOUSAND FEET FROM A SCHOOL PROPERTY BOUNDARY OR, IN COLLABORATION WITH A LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD, FROM RAISING REVENUE THROUGH BONDING TO FINANCE INCREASED SCHOOL ZONE SIGNAGE.

**SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-110.5, **amend** (1.1)(a)(II) and (2)(g)(III); and **add** (1.1)(a.5) as follows:

**42-4-110.5. Automated vehicle identification systems - school buses - safe route to school - exceptions to liability - penalty - contracting - limits on use of photographs and video - rules - legislative declaration - definitions.**

(1.1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) (II) "Automated vehicle identification system" includes a system used to detect a violation of part 11 of this article 4 or a local speed ordinance; a system used to detect violations of traffic restrictions imposed by traffic signals or traffic signs; a system used to detect the overtaking of a stopped school bus with actuated visual signal lights in violation of

section 42-4-1903 (1)(a); A SYSTEM USED TO DETECT A MOVING TRAFFIC VIOLATION IN A SCHOOL ZONE OR ALONG A SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL; and a system used to detect violations of bus lane or bicycle lane restrictions.

(a.5) "SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL" MEANS A ROADWAY THAT IS FREQUENTED BY PEDESTRIANS AND BICYCLISTS ON THEIR WAY TO OR FROM A NEARBY SCHOOL THAT A COUNTY, A CITY AND COUNTY, OR A MUNICIPALITY DESIGNATES TO INCREASE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLIST SAFETY.

(2) A county, city and county, or municipality may adopt an ordinance authorizing the use of an automated vehicle identification system to detect violations of traffic regulations adopted by the county, city and county, or municipality, or the state, a county, a city and county, or a municipality may utilize an automated vehicle identification system to detect traffic violations under state law, subject to the following conditions and limitations and, as applicable, the requirements for state highways set forth in and any rules adopted by the department of transportation pursuant to subsection (2.5) of this section:

(g) (III) This subsection (2)(g) does not apply to an automated vehicle identification system designed to detect disobedience to a traffic control signal, or the overtaking of a school bus with actuated visual signal lights, OR A MOVING VIOLATION ALONG A SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL.

**SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 42-4-119 as follows:

**42-4-119. Establishment of a school street - speed limit - definition.**

(1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "SCHOOL STREET" MEANS A PORTION OF A ROADWAY IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO A SCHOOL PROPERTY BOUNDARY THAT IS DESIGNATED AS A SCHOOL STREET.

(2) A COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY, OR MUNICIPALITY MAY DESIGNATE A ROADWAY AS A SCHOOL STREET; EXCEPT THAT A STATE HIGHWAY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 42-4-110.5, MUST NOT BE DESIGNATED AS A SCHOOL STREET, UNLESS DESIGNATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 42-4-615 (2).

(3) A COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY, OR MUNICIPALITY SHALL NOT DESIGNATE A ROADWAY THAT DIRECTLY CONNECTS TO A STATE HIGHWAY AS A SCHOOL STREET WITHOUT THE WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

(4) A COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY, OR MUNICIPALITY THAT DESIGNATES A ROADWAY AS A SCHOOL STREET MAY CLOSE THE SCHOOL STREET TO VEHICLES.

(5) ALL VEHICLES TRAVELING ALONG A SCHOOL STREET SHALL YIELD THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO A PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLIST, OR MICROMOBILITY USER. A BICYCLIST OR OPERATOR OF A MICROMOBILITY DEVICE SHALL YIELD THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO A PEDESTRIAN ON A SCHOOL STREET.

(6) A STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAVING JURISDICTION OVER THE PLACEMENT OF TRAFFIC SIGNS AND TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES ON A SCHOOL STREET SHALL POST CONSPICUOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS INDICATING AN AREA DESIGNATED AS A SCHOOL STREET AS A SCHOOL STREET.

(7) THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT ON A SCHOOL STREET IS TEN MILES PER HOUR. A STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAVING JURISDICTION OVER THE PLACEMENT OF TRAFFIC SIGNS SHALL POST SPEED LIMIT SIGNS ON A SCHOOL STREET.

(8) SECTIONS 42-4-801, 42-4-803, AND 42-4-805 (1) AND (2) DO NOT APPLY TO SCHOOL STREETS.

(9) A COUNTY, CITY AND COUNTY, OR MUNICIPALITY THAT DESIGNATES A ROADWAY AS A SCHOOL STREET MAY SUSPEND ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC PROVISIONS ON THE SCHOOL STREET THAT ENDANGER PEDESTRIANS, BICYCLISTS, OR MICROMOBILITY USERS AND FRUSTRATE EASE OF PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE MOVEMENT.

**SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless

approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

---

Julie McCluskie  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

James Rashad Coleman, Sr.  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

---

Vanessa Reilly  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

Esther van Mourik  
SECRETARY OF  
THE SENATE

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date and Time)

---

Jared S. Polis  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF COLORADO