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**Representative Duran and Senator Rodriguez File Bill to Create Safer School Zones in Florida**

**Tallahassee, FL – Representative Nicholas X. Duran (D-Miami) and Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Miami)** filed [House Bill 189](#) and [Senate Bill 410](#), *Photographic School Zone Enforcement of Speed Limits*, to curb dangerous drivers in school safety zones.

“Florida’s school safety zones rank among the most dangerous in the nation. We need to do a better job of ensuring students walking to school are safe and not threatened by dangerous, reckless drivers,” said **Senator Rodriguez**. “SB 410 is an effective and low-cost way to save lives and prevent serious injury while providing our law enforcement with another tool for their toolbox to better protect our kids.”

The legislation allows speed detection devices to be used for traffic enforcement in school zones and targets the most egregious speeders – those traveling at more than 10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit in school zones. The speed detection systems would operate on school days, beginning one hour before school and ending one hour after school. No citations would be issued until a law officer first reviewed and confirmed the violation.

“I am a father of two elementary school children and each day I drop them off I’ve become evermore frustrated at seeing more and more drivers rushing through school zones. HB 189 seeks to take on this reality and help make our school safety zones safer for students and families on school days. Leveraging technology to ensure better enforcement of school zones in Florida will save lives, increase adherence to the speed laws and help with police officer capacity in our communities,” said **Representative Duran**.

According to a 2018 study by [Zendrive](#), Florida ranked 50th out of all states when it comes to dangerous drivers around schools. The legislation aims to protect the hundreds of thousands of Florida students at risk from reckless drivers as they walk to and from school.

“As Superintendent of Schools for Miami-Dade County, I have witnessed the dangerous behavior of drivers who often have a disregard for posted school safety zones. Reckless driving and excessive speed places the lives of our children at risk. The legislation proffered by Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez and Representative Nicholas Duran represents an innovative use of technology to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety around our schools. I applaud their efforts to enact legislation that will serve to create safer streets for our children,” said **Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho**.

In 2019, the Florida Sheriff’s Association conducted a week-long “[Operation School Zone Safety](#),” a strategic initiative in 40 Florida counties that focused on providing increased patrolling in school zones to ensure that students had a safe return to school from Spring Break. During this operation, 4,040 warnings and 2,819 traffic citations were issued, and 5,263 hours were dedicated during the enforcement period, demonstrating the significant level of resources required to protect children and combat reckless driving in Florida’s school zones.

“This is a valuable resource for law enforcement to help protect students in school safety zones. The injury or death of a pedestrian is entirely preventable, and SB 410 and HB 189 offer a simple and effective solution. We’ve seen success from this tool in other states, and it’s time we implement it here in Florida,” said **Florida Police Chiefs Association President, Chief Stephan Dembinsky of Daytona Beach Shores Police Department**.

The legislation requires a county or municipality implementing the program to spend at least 30 days educating the public about the new enforcement measures and only issue warnings before they are allowed to levy fines. Under the legislation, revenues from the fines are shared between the State General Fund and the local municipality for public safety. Portions of the revenues would also be directed to the local school districts with proportionate shares toward charter schools, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement’s Criminal Standards + Training Fund, and the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program to train school security personnel.

For more information, please visit [www.FLSenate.gov](http://www.FLSenate.gov) or [www.myFloridaHouse.gov](http://www.myFloridaHouse.gov).

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