

HB 518 -- Highway Work Zone Protection

Sponsor: St. Onge

This bill changes the laws regarding highway work zones. "Worker" or "highway worker" is defined as any person who is working in a construction or work zone or any employee of the Department of Transportation working on a state highway or state highway right-of-way.

Any person guilty of a moving violation within a construction or work zone for the first offense will be subject to a \$35 fine and \$75 for a second or subsequent violation. A fine for speeding in a construction or work zone will be \$250 for the first offense and \$350 for a second or subsequent violation. Passing in a zone will be a class C misdemeanor. The bill establishes the crime of endangerment of a highway worker and specifies the circumstances.

A surcharge must be assessed on all traffic violations in the state. The Work Zone Safety Trust Fund is created for the deposit of the surcharges and other revenues to be used for funding enforcement of all traffic laws in construction or work zones.