

HB 1379 -- Work Zone Safety

Sponsor: St. Onge

This bill changes the laws regarding offenses occurring within highway work zones or construction zones. Any person convicted of a second or subsequent moving violation within a work zone will be assessed a fine of \$75. A person who is convicted of speeding or passing a vehicle within a work zone when a highway worker is present for a second or subsequent occurrence will be assessed \$300 in addition to any other fine authorized by law.

The bill creates the crime of endangerment of a highway worker when a motorist driving in a construction or work zone:

- (1) Exceeds the posted speed limit by 15 miles per hour or more;
- (2) Passes another vehicle which results in the death or injury of a highway worker;
- (3) Fails to stop for a work zone flagman or fails to obey traffic control signals;
- (4) Physically assaults or attempts to assault a highway worker with a motor vehicle or other instrument;
- (5) Intentionally strikes or moves barrels, barriers, signs, or other devices erected to control the flow of traffic for a reason other than avoidance of an obstacle, an emergency, or to protect the health and safety of another person; or
- (6) Commits various offenses in which points may be assessed.

A person who is convicted of the offense of endangerment of a highway worker in which no injury or death results will be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 and will have eight points assessed on his or her driver's license.

If a highway worker is injured or killed in a work zone, the offender will be guilty of aggravated endangerment of a highway worker and subject to a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an injury, not more than \$10,000 if a death resulted, and will have 12 points assessed on his or her license.