



Assemblymember Rudy Salas, 32nd District
ASSEMBLY BILL 1115 – SCHOOL ZONES: TRAFFIC SAFETY
FACT SHEET

ISSUE

The intersection at SR 184 and Sunset Boulevard serves as the main access point to Sunset Middle School, part of the Vineland School District. The school currently has stop signs to control traffic on Sunset Boulevard, but the traffic on SR 184 has nothing in place to slow it down. Large semi-trucks travel on SR 184 at a high rate of speed – with the school right next to it. According to the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans), about 1200 cars and trucks pass through this intersection at peak hours every day.

In the past few years, several tragic fatalities have occurred at the intersection of State Route (SR) 184 and Sunset Boulevard in Kern County. A lack of adequate safety measures and a needed clarification in current law have contributed to these unfortunate accidents.

Concerned residents have demanded a review of all safety options such as installing stop lights, warning lights, rumble strips, or speed bumps in order to help slow traffic on SR 184 and reduce the number of fatalities and collisions. CalTrans has been in contact with residents and the school district but a problem in existing law has been credited as preventing further safety measures from being installed.

Despite traffic safety concerns, under current law this portion of SR 184 is not considered a school zone because it is separated by a few-hundred feet from Sunset Middle School.

EXISTING LAW

Since SR 184 is a state highway, maintenance and oversight falls under the jurisdiction of CalTrans.

California Vehicle Code states that in order for CalTrans to display a school warning sign on a highway, or for a school zone speed limit to be established, the highway must be “contiguous” to

a school property, meaning the state highway must directly and immediately border the school property.

THIS BILL

AB 1115 will designate the portion of SR 184 intersecting with Sunset Boulevard, in front of Sunset Middle School, as a school zone.

SUPPORT

- Behavioral Health Centers
- Building Healthy Communities-South Kern
- Vineland School District

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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