**NEW YORK STATE SENATE
INTRODUCER'S MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT
submitted in accordance with Senate Rule VI. Sec 1**

**BILL NUMBER:** S5602B

**SPONSOR:** GOUNARDES

**TITLE OF BILL**:

An act to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to photo speed

violation monitoring systems in school speed zones in the city of New

York; and to amend chapter 189 of the laws of 2013, amending the vehicle

and traffic law and the public officers law relating to establishing in

a city with a population of one million or more a demonstration program

implementing speed violation monitoring systems in school speed zones by

means of photo devices, in relation to the effectiveness thereof

**PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL**:

To expand the photo speed violation monitoring systems program for

school speed zones in the city of New York

**SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS**:

Section one of this bill amends subdivision (a) of section 1180-b of the

Vehicle and Traffic Law to eliminate the limitation on hours of opera-

tion for speed cameras which is currently between 6:00am and 10:00pm on

weekdays.

Section two of this bill amends Chapter 189 of the Laws of 2013 to renew

the speed camera program until July 1st, 2025.

Section three of this bill provides an effective date.

**JUSTIFICATION**:

Speeding motorists continue to put schoolchildren in unnecessary danger

in New York City. The New York City Department of Transportation (NYC

DOT) reports that the risk of pedestrian death from being struck by a

speeding vehicle increases from 5% at a speed of 20 miles per hour to

45% at a speed of 30 miles per hour, a 900% increase.

Chapter 189 of the Laws of 2013 established a five year demonstration

program to allow a small amount of speed safety cameras to be used near

schools in New York City at certain hours of the day. This law was

renewed and expanded most recently with the passage of Chapter 30 of

2019 after NYC DOT reported a 60% drop in speeding infractions in

locations where speed safety cameras had been installed. The New York

City speed camera program had proven a success at both deterring future

speeding and saving lives.

This bill recognizes the successes of the NYC school zone speed camera

program by eliminating the restriction on hours of operation, currently

6:00am to 10:00pm on weekdays, to allow the cameras to monitor reckless

driving 24/7. NYC DOT reports that 33% of serious deaths and injuries in

2018 occurred at times during which the cameras are not allowed to oper-

ate. The legislature and City of New York are therefore allowing about a

third of entirely preventable deaths and injuries to continue unchecked.

Additionally, while the cameras have proven amazingly effective at

discouraging repeat speeding behavior in prior years, the COVID-19

pandemic and its ensuing impact on NYC traffic patterns represent a

grave threat to these street safety gains. DOT has reported a 69%

increase in traffic-related deaths as the City's streets emptied out

during the pandemic, paving the way for speeding and other kinds of

reckless behavior behind the wheel. It is imperative, therefore, that

the legislature act to renew and expand the New York City speed camera

program to reverse this disturbing trend in driver behavior and ensure

that all pedestrians, from schoolchildren to working parents to the

elderly, are protected from the deadly effects of speeding vehicles as

they go about their daily routines.

**PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**:

New bill

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**:

TBD

**EFFECTIVE DATE**:

This act shall take effect immediately.