
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5329

AN ACT CONCERNING ROAD SAFETY AUDITS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT), by January 1, 2025, to create a process allowing a person, traffic authority, or regional council of governments to request the department to do a road safety audit (RSA; see BACKGROUND) of a specific highway (i.e., generally state or local roads that are open to the public). The purpose of these audits is to identify transportation safety solutions and improve motor vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic on the highway.

Under the bill, the RSA process must require the DOT commissioner to notify the requesting entity in writing, within 30 days after receiving the request, as to the department's decision whether to perform the RSA. If DOT will do one, the notice must include the scope of the audit and its completion date; if not, the notice must include the reasons why. Additionally, the process must require DOT to submit RSA results to (1) the requesting entity and (2) legislators representing the municipality or municipalities where the audited highway is located.

Lastly, the bill requires DOT to post this RSA process on its website.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

BACKGROUND

DOT Road Safety Audits

Under current practice, DOT accepts RSA applications from local traffic authorities. When the department approves an application, it notifies the municipality and schedules the field audit. Before doing the audit, DOT meets with RSA stakeholders to discuss audit objectives and review relevant information. Following a post-audit meeting with these

stakeholders, DOT drafts a final report with existing conditions and recommendations and allows the municipality to review the report and make additional comments. After reviewing and incorporating these comments, DOT addresses each recommendation with steps the municipality should take for implementation.

According to DOT, RSAs are currently done using protocols the Federal Highway Administration publishes.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 36 Nay 0 (03/18/2024)