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HOUSE BILL 2836

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State of Washington                      54th Legislature                      1996 Regular Session

By Representatives K. Schmidt, R. Fisher and Blanton

Read first time 01/22/96. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to authority for setting speed limits; and amending  
2 RCW 46.61.410.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.410 and 1987 c 397 s 4 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1)(a) Subject to subsection (2) of this section the secretary may  
7 increase the maximum speed limit on any highway or portion thereof to  
8 not more than seventy miles per hour in accordance with the design  
9 speed thereof (taking into account all safety elements included  
10 therein), or whenever the secretary determines upon the basis of an  
11 engineering and traffic investigation that such greater speed is  
12 reasonable and safe under the circumstances existing on such part of  
13 the highway.

14            (b) ~~((If the federal government increases the national maximum  
15 speed limit to at least sixty-five miles per hour on any part of the  
16 highway system, the secretary of transportation shall forthwith  
17 increase to that same speed the maximum speed limit on any such highway  
18 or portion thereof then posted at fifty-five miles per hour to a  
19 maximum of sixty-five miles per hour, subject to subsection (2) of this~~

1 section, if such limit had been established for that highway or portion  
2 thereof in order to comply with the former national maximum speed  
3 limit. However, if an engineering and traffic investigation conducted  
4 by the department clearly indicates that a speed limit above fifty five  
5 miles an hour would be unsafe for that highway or a portion thereof,  
6 the secretary of transportation shall not increase the speed limit for  
7 that highway or portion thereof above the safe speed indicated by the  
8 investigation. The speed limit on interstate route number 5 between  
9 Everett and Olympia may not be increased above fifty five miles per  
10 hour under this subsection (b).

11 (~~e~~) The greater maximum limit established under (a) (~~or (b)~~) of  
12 this subsection shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice  
13 thereof are erected, or if a maximum limit is established for auto  
14 stages which is lower than the limit for automobiles, the auto stage  
15 speed limit shall become effective thirty days after written notice  
16 thereof is mailed in the manner provided in subsection (4) of this  
17 section.

18 (~~(d)~~) (c) Such maximum speed limit may be declared to be  
19 effective at all times or at such times as are indicated upon said  
20 signs or in the case of auto stages, as indicated in said written  
21 notice; and differing limits may be established for different times of  
22 day, different types of vehicles, varying weather conditions, and other  
23 factors bearing on safe speeds, which shall be effective when posted  
24 upon appropriate fixed or variable signs or if a maximum limit is  
25 established for auto stages which is lower than the limit for  
26 automobiles, the auto stage speed limit shall become effective thirty  
27 days after written notice thereof is mailed in the manner provided in  
28 subsection (4) of this section.

29 (2) The maximum speed limit for vehicles over ten thousand pounds  
30 gross weight and vehicles in combination except auto stages shall not  
31 exceed sixty miles per hour and may be established at a lower limit by  
32 the secretary as provided in RCW 46.61.405.

33 (3) The word "trucks" used by the department on signs giving notice  
34 of maximum speed limits means vehicles over ten thousand pounds gross  
35 weight and all vehicles in combination except auto stages.

36 (4) Whenever the secretary establishes maximum speed limits for  
37 auto stages lower than the maximum limits for automobiles, the  
38 secretary shall cause to be mailed notice thereof to each auto  
39 transportation company holding a certificate of public convenience and

1 necessity issued by the Washington utilities and transportation  
2 commission. The notice shall be mailed to the chief place of business  
3 within the state of Washington of each auto transportation company or  
4 if none then its chief place of business without the state of  
5 Washington.

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