

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1448

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Transportation, March 30, 2009

Title: An act relating to speed limits on nonlimited access state highways within tribal reservation boundaries.

Brief Description: Granting tribal authorities limited control over speed limits on nonlimited access state highways within tribal reservation boundaries.

Sponsors: Representatives Hurst, Roach, Simpson, McCoy, Sullivan, Hunt, Goodman, Appleton, Ormsby and Nelson.

Brief History: Passed House: 2/27/09, 94-0.

Committee Activity: Transportation: 3/26/09, 3/30/09 [DPA].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Marr, Vice Chair; Swecker, Ranking Minority Member; Becker, Berkey, Eide, Jarrett, Kastama, Kauffman, Kilmer, King and Ranker.

Staff: Dory Nicpon (786-7321)

Background: Current law specifies default speed limits for city and town streets, county roads, and state highways. Under certain circumstances, the Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOT) or local jurisdictions may adjust the maximum speed along a particular roadway.

If a local jurisdiction adjusts the maximum speed limit, the adjustment is not effective until appropriate signs are posted. In the case of an adjustment made along a state highway within the local jurisdiction, the adjustment must be approved by DOT.

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee not considered.

Summary of Bill (Recommended Amendments): Tribal authorities may adjust the maximum speed on certain state highways within reservation boundaries. Tribal authorities may decrease the speed limit at intersections, increase the limit to not more than 60 miles per hour, or decrease the limit to not less than 20 miles per hour.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Any alteration by tribal authorities of a speed limit on a state highway within reservation boundaries is not effective until approved by DOT and speed limit signs are posted. In the case of a city or town street, or county road, any alteration by tribal authorities is not effective until also approved by the applicable local authorities.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill allows tribes to participate in highway safety discussions, and gives tribes some input in determining the speed limits on certain roadways.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Rick Jensen, Muckleshoot Tribe.