

SHB 1217 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Transportation

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 46.61.415 and 1977 ex.s. c 151 s 36 are each amended  
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) Whenever local authorities in their respective jurisdictions  
6 determine on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that  
7 the maximum speed permitted under RCW 46.61.400 or 46.61.440 is greater  
8 or less than is reasonable and safe under the conditions found to exist  
9 upon a highway or part of a highway, the local authority may determine  
10 and declare a reasonable and safe maximum limit thereon which

11 (a) Decreases the limit at intersections; or

12 (b) Increases the limit but not to more than sixty miles per hour;

13 or

14 (c) Decreases the limit but not to less than twenty miles per hour.

15 (2) Local authorities in their respective jurisdictions shall  
16 determine by an engineering and traffic investigation the proper  
17 maximum speed for all arterial streets and shall declare a reasonable  
18 and safe maximum limit thereon which may be greater or less than the  
19 maximum speed permitted under RCW 46.61.400(2) but shall not exceed  
20 sixty miles per hour.

21 (3)(a) Cities and towns in their respective jurisdictions may  
22 establish a maximum speed limit of twenty miles per hour on a  
23 nonarterial highway, or part of a nonarterial highway, that is within  
24 a residence district or business district. A city or town must hold a  
25 public hearing on lowering the speed limit and must hold such hearing  
26 at a time when the people most impacted by the lower speed limit would  
27 be able to attend. A city or town legislative action to lower a speed  
28 limit under this section is subject to any applicable referendum  
29 procedure in place in the city or town.

1 (b) Counties, with a state university extension office located on  
2 a state highway within their respective jurisdictions, may decrease the  
3 maximum speed limit on the state highway on which the extension office  
4 is located. The speed on such state highway may be less than the  
5 maximum speed permitted under RCW 46.61.400(2).

6 (c) A speed limit established under this subsection by a city,  
7 town, or county does not need to be determined on the basis of an  
8 engineering and traffic investigation if the city, town, or county has  
9 developed procedures regarding establishing a maximum speed limit under  
10 this subsection. Any speed limit established under this subsection may  
11 be canceled within one year of its establishment, and the previous  
12 speed limit reestablished, without an engineering and traffic  
13 investigation. This subsection does not otherwise affect the  
14 requirement that cities, towns, and counties conduct an engineering and  
15 traffic investigation to determine whether to increase speed limits.

16 (d) When establishing speed limits under this subsection, cities,  
17 towns, and counties shall consult the manual on uniform traffic control  
18 devices as adopted by the Washington state department of  
19 transportation.

20 (e) Any reduction in a speed limit enacted by a local authority on  
21 a nonarterial highway or state highway under this subsection may not be  
22 targeted by law enforcement for repetitive, overzealous speed  
23 enforcement for the sole purpose of generating a higher than average  
24 number of citations.

25 (4) The secretary of transportation is authorized to establish  
26 speed limits on county roads and city and town streets as shall be  
27 necessary to conform with any federal requirements which are a  
28 prescribed condition for the allocation of federal funds to the state.

29 ~~((+4))~~ (5) Any altered limit established as hereinbefore  
30 authorized shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice  
31 thereof are erected. Such maximum speed limit may be declared to be  
32 effective at all times or at such times as are indicated upon such  
33 signs; and differing limits may be established for different times of  
34 day, different types of vehicles, varying weather conditions, and other  
35 factors bearing on safe speeds, which shall be effective when posted  
36 upon appropriate fixed or variable signs.

37 ~~((+5))~~ (6) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b) of this  
38 section, any alteration of maximum limits on state highways within

1 incorporated cities or towns by local authorities shall not be  
2 effective until such alteration has been approved by the secretary of  
3 transportation."

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4 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "limits;" strike the  
5 remainder of the title and insert "and amending RCW 46.61.415."

EFFECT: (1) Provides that any county that has a state university extension office located on a state highway within its jurisdiction may lower the speed limit on the state highway beyond the limit set in statute. A county taking such action would not have to do a traffic analysis study and also would not need the secretary of transportation's approval in order to lower the speed limit.

(2) Specifies that a city or town adopting a lower speed limit must hold a public hearing on lowering the speed limit, and the hearing must be held at a time when the people most impacted by the lower speed limit can attend.

(3) Also specifies that the legislative action by a city or town lowering a speed limit is subject to referendum.

(4) Establishes a prohibition on law enforcement speed traps on a nonarterial highway or state highway where the speed limit was lowered pursuant to this act.

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