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HOUSE BILL 2181

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Schmick, Clibborn, Orcutt, and Scott

Read first time 02/26/15. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to the maximum speed limit on highways; amending  
2            RCW 46.61.410; and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    The legislature finds that there are  
5            portions of Interstate 90, and possibly other portions of the state  
6            highway system, upon which the current maximum speed limit could be  
7            increased from seventy miles per hour to seventy-five miles per hour,  
8            thereby decreasing the amount of travel time for the motoring public,  
9            without compromising safety. The legislature intends that the  
10           department of transportation conduct further investigation to  
11           determine the locations on Interstate 90 and potentially elsewhere  
12           upon which such greater speed is reasonable and safe and to modify  
13           the maximum speed limit accordingly.

14           **Sec. 2.**    RCW 46.61.410 and 1996 c 52 s 1 are each amended to read  
15           as follows:

16           (1)(a) Subject to subsection (2) of this section the secretary  
17           may increase the maximum speed limit on any highway or portion  
18           thereof to not more than (~~seventy~~) seventy-five miles per hour in  
19           accordance with the design speed thereof (taking into account all  
20           safety elements included therein), or whenever the secretary

1 determines upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation  
2 that such greater speed is reasonable and safe under the  
3 circumstances existing on such part of the highway.

4 (b) The greater maximum limit established under (a) of this  
5 subsection shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice  
6 thereof are erected, or if a maximum limit is established for auto  
7 stages which is lower than the limit for automobiles, the auto stage  
8 speed limit shall become effective thirty days after written notice  
9 thereof is mailed in the manner provided in subsection (4) of this  
10 section.

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

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

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

30 (4) Whenever the secretary establishes maximum speed limits for  
31 auto stages lower than the maximum limits for automobiles, the  
32 secretary shall cause to be mailed notice thereof to each auto  
33 transportation company holding a certificate of public convenience  
34 and necessity issued by the Washington utilities and transportation  
35 commission. The notice shall be mailed to the chief place of business  
36 within the state of Washington of each auto transportation company or  
37 if none then its chief place of business without the state of  
38 Washington.

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