
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1217

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Ryu, Pedersen, Johnson, Klippert, Maxwell, Finn, Kenney, Santos, Springer, Ladenburg, Appleton, Lias, McCoy, Miloscia, Fitzgibbon, Kagi, Roberts, and Billig)

READ FIRST TIME 02/01/11.

1 AN ACT Relating to local authorities altering maximum speed limits;
2 and amending RCW 46.61.415.

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

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

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

12 (a) Decreases the limit at intersections; or

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

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

16 (2) Local authorities in their respective jurisdictions shall
17 determine by an engineering and traffic investigation the proper
18 maximum speed for all arterial streets and shall declare a reasonable

1 and safe maximum limit thereon which may be greater or less than the
2 maximum speed permitted under RCW 46.61.400(2) but shall not exceed
3 sixty miles per hour.

4 (3)(a) Cities and towns in their respective jurisdictions may
5 establish a maximum speed limit of twenty miles per hour on a
6 nonarterial highway, or part of a nonarterial highway, that is within
7 a residence district or business district.

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

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

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

25 ~~((+4))~~ (5) Any altered limit established as hereinbefore
26 authorized shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice
27 thereof are erected. Such maximum speed limit may be declared to be
28 effective at all times or at such times as are indicated upon such
29 signs; and differing limits may be established for different times of
30 day, different types of vehicles, varying weather conditions, and other
31 factors bearing on safe speeds, which shall be effective when posted
32 upon appropriate fixed or variable signs.

33 ~~((+5))~~ (6) Any alteration of maximum limits on state highways
34 within incorporated cities or towns by local authorities shall not be
35 effective until such alteration has been approved by the secretary of
36 transportation.

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