

House Bill 3117

Sponsored by Representative THATCHER

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Increases speed limit on interstate highways.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to interstate highway speeds; amending ORS 810.180 and 811.111.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 811.111 is amended to read:

811.111. (1) A person commits the offense of violating a speed limit if the person:

(a) Drives a vehicle on an interstate highway at a speed greater than [65] **70** miles per hour or, if a different speed is posted under ORS 810.180 (3), at a speed greater than the posted speed.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, drives any of the following vehicles at a speed greater than 55 miles per hour on any highway or, if a different speed is posted under ORS 810.180 (3), at a speed greater than the posted speed:

(A) A motor truck with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds or a truck tractor with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 8,000 pounds.

(B) A school bus.

(C) A school activity vehicle.

(D) A worker transport bus.

(E) A bus operated for transporting children to and from church or an activity or function authorized by a church.

(F) Any vehicle used in the transportation of persons for hire by a nonprofit entity as provided in ORS 825.017 (9).

(c) Drives a vehicle or conveyance on any part of the ocean shore in this state at a speed greater than any of the following:

(A) Any designated speed for ocean shores that is established and posted under ORS 810.180.

(B) If no designated speed is posted under ORS 810.180, 25 miles per hour.

(d) Drives a vehicle upon a highway in any city at a speed greater than a speed posted by authority granted under ORS 810.180 or, if no speed is posted, the following:

(A) Fifteen miles per hour when driving on an alley.

(B) Twenty miles per hour in a business district.

(C) Twenty-five miles per hour in a public park.

(D) Twenty-five miles per hour on a highway in a residence district if the highway is not an arterial highway.

(E) [*Sixty-five*] **Seventy** miles per hour on an interstate highway.

(F) Fifty-five miles per hour in locations not otherwise described in this paragraph.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (e) Drives a vehicle in a school zone at a speed greater than 20 miles per hour if the school zone
 2 is:

3 (A) A segment of highway described in ORS 801.462 (1)(a) and:

4 (i) The school zone has a flashing light used as a traffic control device and operated under ORS
 5 811.106 and the flashing light indicates that children may be arriving at or leaving school; or

6 (ii) If the school zone does not have a flashing light used as a traffic control device, the person
 7 drives in the school zone between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. on a day when school is in session.

8 (B) A crosswalk described in ORS 801.462 (1)(b) and:

9 (i) A flashing light used as a traffic control device and operated under ORS 811.106 indicates
 10 that children may be arriving at or leaving school; or

11 (ii) Children are present, as described in ORS 811.124.

12 (2) The offense described in this section, violating a speed limit, is punishable as provided in
 13 ORS 811.109.

14 **SECTION 2.** ORS 810.180 is amended to read:

15 810.180. (1) As used in this section:

16 (a) “Designated speed” means the speed that is designated by a road authority as the maximum
 17 permissible speed for a highway and that may be different from the statutory speed for the highway.

18 (b) “Statutory speed” means the speed that is established as a speed limit under ORS 811.111,
 19 or is established as the speed the exceeding of which is prima facie evidence of violation of the basic
 20 speed rule under ORS 811.105.

21 (2)(a) A designated speed established under this section is a speed limit if the highway for which
 22 the speed is designated is subject to a statutory speed limit under ORS 811.111 that is in addition
 23 to the speed limit established under ORS 811.111 (1)(b).

24 (b) A speed greater than a designated speed established under this section is prima facie evi-
 25 dence of violation of the basic speed rule if the designated speed is established for a highway on
 26 which there is no speed limit other than the limit established under ORS 811.111 (1)(b).

27 (3) The Department of Transportation may establish by rule designated speeds on any specified
 28 section of interstate highway if [*the department determines*] **an engineering and traffic investi-**
 29 **gation indicates** that speed limits established under ORS 811.111 (1) are greater or less than is
 30 reasonable or safe under the **road** conditions that exist with respect to that section of the interstate
 31 highway. Designated speeds established under this subsection are subject to all of the following:

32 (a) The department may not establish a designated speed under this subsection of more than:

33 (A) Sixty-five miles per hour for vehicles described in ORS 811.111 (1)(b); and

34 (B) Seventy miles per hour for all other vehicles.

35 (b) If the department establishes designated speeds under this subsection that are greater than
 36 65 miles per hour, the designated speed for vehicles described in ORS 811.111 (1)(b) must be at least
 37 five miles per hour lower than the designated speed for all other vehicles on the specified section
 38 of interstate highway.

39 [*c) The department may establish a designated speed under this subsection only if an engineering*
 40 *and traffic investigation indicates that the statutory speed for the interstate highway is greater or less*
 41 *than is reasonable or safe under conditions the department finds to exist.*]

42 [(d)] (c) A designated speed established under this subsection is effective when appropriate signs
 43 giving notice of the designated speed are posted on the section of interstate highway where the
 44 designated speed is imposed.

45 (4)(a) The department may establish, pursuant to a process established by rule, a designated

1 speed on a state highway outside of a city. The authority granted under this subsection includes,
 2 but is not limited to, the authority to establish different designated speeds for different kinds or
 3 classes of vehicles as the department determines reasonable and safe. A designated speed established
 4 under this subsection for any kind or class of vehicles may not exceed the speed limit for the high-
 5 way for that kind or class of vehicles as established in ORS 811.111 or, if there is no speed limit for
 6 the highway other than the limit established in ORS 811.111 (1)(b), may not exceed 55 miles per hour.

7 (b) The department may establish a designated speed under this subsection only if an engineer-
 8 ing and traffic investigation indicates that the statutory speed for the highway is greater or less
 9 than is reasonable or safe under conditions the department finds to exist.

10 (c) A designated speed established under this subsection is effective when appropriate signs
 11 giving notice of the designated speed are posted on the portion of highway where the designated
 12 speed is imposed.

13 (5) After a written request is received from a road authority for a highway other than a highway
 14 described in subsection (3) or (4) of this section, the department, pursuant to a process established
 15 by rule, may establish a designated speed for the highway. The authority granted under this sub-
 16 section includes, but is not limited to, the authority to establish different designated speeds for dif-
 17 ferent kinds or classes of vehicles as the department determines reasonable and safe. The authority
 18 granted under this subsection is subject to all of the following:

19 (a) The written request from the road authority must state a recommended designated speed.

20 (b) The department may establish a designated speed under this subsection only if an engineer-
 21 ing and traffic investigation indicates that the statutory speed for the highway is greater or less
 22 than is reasonable or safe under conditions the department finds to exist.

23 (c) The department may not make a final decision to establish a designated speed under this
 24 subsection without providing the affected road authorities with notice and opportunity for a hearing.

25 (d) A road authority may file a written objection to a designated speed that is proposed by the
 26 department under this subsection and that affects the road authority.

27 (e) A designated speed established under this subsection is effective when appropriate signs
 28 giving notice of the designated speed are posted on the portion of the highway where the designated
 29 speed is imposed. The expense of erecting any sign under this subsection shall be borne by the road
 30 authority having jurisdiction over the portion of the highway where the designated speed is imposed.

31 (f) The department, pursuant to a process established by rule, may delegate its authority under
 32 this subsection with respect to highways that are low volume or unpaved to a city or county with
 33 jurisdiction over the highway. The department shall delegate authority under this paragraph only
 34 if it determines that the city or county will exercise the authority according to criteria adopted by
 35 the department.

36 (6) The department may override the speed limit established for ocean shores under ORS 811.111
 37 (1)(c) and establish a designated speed of less than 25 miles per hour on any specified section of
 38 ocean shore if the department determines that the speed limit established under ORS 811.111 (1)(c)
 39 is greater than is reasonable or safe under the conditions that exist with respect to that part of the
 40 ocean shore. The authority granted under this subsection is subject to all of the following:

41 (a) The department may make the determination required under this subsection only on the basis
 42 of an investigation.

43 (b) A designated speed established under this subsection is effective when posted upon appro-
 44 priate fixed or variable signs on the portion of ocean shore where the designated speed is imposed.

45 (7) A road authority may adopt a designated speed to regulate the speed of vehicles in parks

1 under the jurisdiction of the road authority. A road authority regulating the speed of vehicles under
2 this subsection shall post and maintain signs at all park entrances to give notice of any designated
3 speed.

4 (8) A road authority may establish by ordinance or order a temporary designated speed for
5 highways in its jurisdiction that is lower than the statutory speed. A temporary designated speed
6 may be established under this subsection if, in the judgment of the road authority, the temporary
7 designated speed is necessary to protect any portion of the highway from being unduly damaged, or
8 to protect the safety of the public and workers when temporary conditions such as construction or
9 maintenance activities constitute a danger. The following apply to the authority granted under this
10 subsection:

11 (a) Statutory speeds may be overridden by a temporary designated speed only:

12 (A) For a specific period of time for all vehicles; or

13 (B) For a specified period of time for a specific kind or class of vehicle that is causing identified
14 damage to highways.

15 (b) This subsection may not be used to establish a permanent designated speed.

16 (c) The authority granted by this subsection may be exercised only if the ordinance or order that
17 imposes the temporary designated speed:

18 (A) Specifies the hazard, damage or other condition requiring the temporary designated speed;
19 and

20 (B) Is effective only for a specified time that corresponds to the hazard, damage or other con-
21 dition specified.

22 (d) A temporary designated speed imposed under this subsection must be imposed by a proper
23 written ordinance or order. A sign giving notice of the temporary designated speed must be posted
24 at each end of the portion of highway where the temporary designated speed is imposed and at such
25 other places on the highway as may be necessary to inform the public. The temporary designated
26 speed shall be effective when signs giving notice of the temporary designated speed are posted.

27 (9) A road authority may establish an emergency speed on any highway under the jurisdiction
28 of the road authority that is different from the existing speed on the highway. The authority granted
29 under this subsection is subject to all of the following:

30 (a) A speed established under this subsection is effective when appropriate signs giving notice
31 thereof are posted upon the highway or portion of highway where the emergency speed is imposed.
32 All signs posted under this subsection must comply with ORS 810.200.

33 (b) The expense of posting any sign under this subsection shall be borne by the road authority
34 having jurisdiction over the highway or portion of highway where the emergency speed is imposed.

35 (c) A speed established under this subsection may be effective for not more than 120 days.

36