

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**House Committee On Transportation and Economic Development****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/20/15**Action:** Do Pass As Amended, Be Printed Engrossed, And Bill Be Referred To Ways And Means.**Meeting Dates:** 04/03, 04/20**Vote:**

Yeas: 6 - Bentz, Davis, Hack, Lively, McKeown, McLain

Exc: 1 - Gorsek

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Committee Administrator**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Increases speed limit for passenger vehicles and other vehicles on segments of Interstate 84, Highway 95, Highway 20, Highway 197, Highway 198, Highway 31, Highway 78, Highway 395, Route 205 and Highway 26. Exempts portions of Highway 95, Highway 20 and Highway 197 that fall inside of city limits.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Relationship between speed and survivability of accidents
- Improved safety features of vehicles and roads
- History of speed limit changes both nationally and in Oregon

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Revises section 1 to specify increased speed limits as follows for passenger vehicles/other vehicles:

- Interstate 84 between The Dalles and Idaho State Line: 70 mph/65 mph
- Highway 95 between Idaho and Nevada state lines: 70 mph/65 mph
- Highway 20 between Bend and Ontario: 65 mph/60 mph
- Highway 197 between The Dalles and Highway 97: 65 mph/60 mph
- Highway 198 between Highway 97 and Klamath Falls: 65 mph/60 mph
- Highway 31 between Valley Falls and LaPine: 65 mph/60 mph
- Highway 78 between Burns Junction and Burns: 65 mph/60 mph
- Highway 395 between Burns and John Day: 65 mph/60 mph
- Highway 395 between Riley and California State Line: 65 mph/60 mph
- Route 205 between Burns and French Glen: 65 mph/60 mph
- Highway 26 between John Day and Vale: 65 mph/60 mph
- Exempts portions of Highway 95, Highway 20 and Highway 197 that fall inside city limits.

BACKGROUND:

Establishment of speed limits on the interstate highway system was historically relegated to the states until the petroleum crisis of 1973, when Congress, in an effort to curb fuel consumption, established the National Maximum Speed Limit, effectively limiting speeds to 55 miles per hour. The law was modified in 1987/88 to allow for a maximum of 65 miles per hour in certain limited access rural corridors. Following repeal of the federal limit in 1995, most states moved to increase interstate speed limits.

Oregon is currently one of 11 states with a maximum allowable speed on interstates of 65 miles per hour. Twenty-two states set a limit of 70 miles per hour (including neighboring California and Washington), 12 states set the limit at 75, four states

(including the neighboring state of Idaho and portions of Texas) allow 80 miles per hour, and some limited segments of highway in Texas allow for 85 miles per hour. Hawaii's maximum speed limit on interstates is 60 miles per hour.