

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/15/16

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 02/15

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases speed limits for certain highways, including: State Highway 97 from Klamath Falls to the California State Line; and Interstate 82 between Interstate 84 and the Washington State Line. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- House Bill 3402 (2015)
- Basic Rule compared to posted speed limits

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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.

Prior to passage of House Bill 3402 (2015), Oregon was one of 11 states with a maximum allowable speed on interstates of 65 miles per hour. Twenty-two states (including neighboring California and Washington) set a limit of 70 miles per hour, 12 states set the limit at 75 miles per hour, four states (including neighboring Idaho) allowed 80 miles per hour, and some limited segments of highway in Texas allowed for 85 miles per hour. Hawaii's maximum speed limit on interstates is 60 miles per hour. House Bill 3402 increased speed limits on several highways and interstates in eastern and southern Oregon, including Interstate 84, Highway 95, Highway 20, Highway 197, Highway 97, Highway 31, Highway 78, Highway 395 and Highway 26. The measure allocated \$735,000 to replace approximately 370 speed limit signs and to allow the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to conduct speed studies on some of the roads.

House Bill 4047 increases speed limits on two additional stretches of roads. The first change addresses a short segment of Highway 197 between Klamath Falls and the California border that, following passage of House Bill 3402, was to be the only segment of that highway outside of city limits with a speed limit lower than 65 miles per hour for passenger vehicles and 60 miles per hour for trucks, buses and vehicles pulling trailers or other vehicles. The measure also increases the speed limit on Interstate 82 between the Washington border and the interchange with Interstate 84 by five miles per hour for all vehicles.