

By Senator

SHB 1217 - S COMM AMD
By Committee on Transportation

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

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

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

- 11 (a) Decreases the limit at intersections; or
- 12 (b) Increases the limit but not to more than sixty miles per hour;
- 13 or

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

15 (2) Local authorities in their respective jurisdictions shall
16 determine by an engineering and traffic investigation the proper
17 maximum speed for all arterial streets and shall declare a reasonable
18 and safe maximum limit thereon which may be greater or less than the
19 maximum speed permitted under RCW 46.61.400(2) but shall not exceed
20 sixty miles per hour.

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

25 (b) Cities and towns with a population of fewer than three thousand
26 may decrease the maximum speed limit on state highways within their
27 respective jurisdictions, which may be less than the maximum speed
28 permitted under RCW 46.61.400(2).

29 (c) A speed limit established under this subsection by a city or
30 town does not need to be determined on the basis of an engineering and

1 traffic investigation if the city or town has developed procedures
2 regarding establishing a maximum speed limit under this subsection.
3 Any speed limit established under this subsection may be canceled
4 within one year of its establishment, and the previous speed limit
5 reestablished, without an engineering and traffic investigation. This
6 subsection does not otherwise affect the requirement that cities and
7 towns conduct an engineering and traffic investigation to determine
8 whether to increase speed limits.

9 (d) When establishing speed limits under this subsection, cities
10 and towns shall consult the manual on uniform traffic control devices
11 as adopted by the Washington state department of transportation.

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

16 ~~((+4))~~ (5) Any altered limit established as hereinbefore
17 authorized shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice
18 thereof are erected. Such maximum speed limit may be declared to be
19 effective at all times or at such times as are indicated upon such
20 signs; and differing limits may be established for different times of
21 day, different types of vehicles, varying weather conditions, and other
22 factors bearing on safe speeds, which shall be effective when posted
23 upon appropriate fixed or variable signs.

24 ~~((+5))~~ (6) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b) of this
25 section, any alteration of maximum limits on state highways within
26 incorporated cities or towns by local authorities shall not be
27 effective until such alteration has been approved by the secretary of
28 transportation."

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29 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "limits;" strike the
30 remainder of the title and insert "and amending RCW 46.61.415."

EFFECT: Allows cities and towns to establish maximum speed limits of 20 miles per hour on nonarterial highways in business or residence districts without an engineering and traffic investigation, so long as prior to establishing maximum speed limits of 20 miles per hour cities and towns develop procedures regarding the establishment of such speed limits. Additionally, cities and towns with a population of fewer than three thousand persons may decrease the maximum speed limit on state highways within their respective jurisdictions, which may be less than the maximum speed permitted under law.

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