

Passed the House February 5, 1963.

Passed the Senate February 28, 1963.

Approved by the Governor March 7, 1963.

CHAPTER 16.

[H. B. 143.]

MOTOR VEHICLES—SPEED LIMITS.

AN ACT relating to motor vehicle speed limits; adding new sections to chapter 46.48 RCW; amending section 46.48.023, chapter 12, Laws of 1961 and RCW 46.48.023; and repealing sections 46.48.010, 46.48.020, 46.48.022, 46.48.024, 46.48.030, 46.48.040, 46.48.044, 46.48.070, 46.48.090, and 46.48.100, chapter 12, Laws of 1961 and RCW 46.48.010, 46.48.020, 46.48.022, 46.48.024, 46.48.030, 46.48.040, 46.48.044, 46.48.070, 46.48.090, and 46.48.100, and section 46.48.021, chapter 12, Laws of 1961 as amended by section 1, chapter 120, Laws of 1961 and RCW 46.48.021.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. There is added to chapter 46.48 RCW New section.
a new section to read as follows:

(1) No person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and having regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing. In every event speed shall be so controlled as may be necessary to avoid colliding with any person, vehicle or other conveyance on or entering the highway in compliance with legal requirements and the duty of all persons to use due care. Speed limits, generally.

(2) Except when a special hazard exists that requires lower speed for compliance with subsection (1) of this section, the limits specified in this section or established as hereinafter authorized shall be maximum lawful speeds, and no person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed in excess of such maximum limits.

- (a) Twenty-five miles per hour within the limits of incorporated cities and towns;
- (b) Fifty miles per hour on county roads;
- (c) Sixty miles per hour in other locations.

The maximum speed limits set forth in this section may be altered as authorized in sections 2, 3, and 4.

(3) The driver of every vehicle shall, consistent with the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, drive at an appropriate reduced speed when approaching and crossing an intersection or railway grade crossing, when approaching and going around a curve, when approaching a hill crest, when traveling upon any narrow or winding roadway, and when special hazard exists with respect to pedestrians or other traffic or by reason of weather or highway conditions.

New section.

SEC. 2. There is added to chapter 46.48 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Decrease of
speed limit by
commission.

Whenever the state highway commission shall determine upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that any maximum speed hereinbefore set forth is greater than is reasonable or safe under the conditions found to exist at any intersection or upon any other part of the state highway system, said commission may determine and declare a lower reasonable and safe maximum limit thereat, which shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected. Such a maximum speed limit may be declared to be effective at all times or at such times as are indicated upon the said signs; and differing limits may be established for different times of day, different types of vehicles, varying weather conditions, and other factors bearing on safe speeds, which shall be effective when posted upon appropriate fixed or variable signs.

New section.

SEC 3. There is added to chapter 46.48 RCW a new section to read as follows:

The state highway commission may increase the maximum speed limit on any part of a multiple lane, limited access highway constructed under chapter 47.52 RCW to not more than seventy miles per hour whenever said commission determines upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that such greater speed is reasonable and safe under the circumstances existing on such part of the highway. The greater maximum limit so determined shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected. Such maximum speed limit may be declared to be effective at all times or at such times as are indicated upon the said signs; and differing limits may be established for different times of day, different types of vehicles, varying weather conditions, and other factors bearing on safe speeds, which shall be effective when posted upon appropriate fixed or variable signs.

Increase of
speed limit
by commission.

SEC. 4. There is added to chapter 46.48 RCW a new section to read as follows:

New section.

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

Alteration of
speed limits by
local author-
ities.

- (a) Decreases the limit at intersections; or
- (b) Increases the limit but not to more than sixty miles per hour; or
- (c) Decreases the limit but not to less than twenty miles per hour.

(2) Local authorities in their respective jurisdictions shall determine by an engineering and traffic investigation the proper maximum speed for all arterial streets and shall declare a reasonable and safe maximum limit thereon which may be greater

or less than the maximum speed permitted under subsection (2) of section 1 but shall not exceed sixty miles per hour.

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

(4) Any alteration of maximum limits on state highways within incorporated cities or towns by local authorities shall not be effective until such alteration has been approved by the state highway commission.

RCW 46.48.023
amended.

SEC. 5. Section 46.48.023, chapter 12, Laws of 1961 and RCW 46.48.023 are each amended to read as follows:

Maximum
speed for
school and
playground
crosswalk
zone.

Subject to subsection (1) of section 1 of this amendatory act of 1963, and except in those instances where a lower maximum lawful speed is provided by this chapter or otherwise, it shall be unlawful for the operator of any vehicle to operate the same at a speed in excess of twenty miles per hour when operating any vehicle upon a public highway either inside or outside an incorporated city or town when passing any marked public school or playground crosswalk when such marked crosswalk is fully posted with standard portable school or speed control signs. The speed zone at the crosswalk shall extend three hundred feet in either direction from the marked crosswalk.

New section.

SEC. 6. There is added to chapter 46.48 RCW a new section to read as follows:

(1) No person shall drive a motor vehicle at such a slow speed as to impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic except when reduced speed is necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

Impeding
traffic by slow
speed
prohibited
—Minimum
speed limits.

(2) Whenever the state highway commission or local authorities within their respective jurisdictions determine on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that slow speeds on any part of a highway unreasonably impede the normal movement of traffic, the commission or such local authority may determine and declare a minimum speed limit thereat which shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected. No person shall drive a vehicle slower than such minimum speed limit except when necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

SEC. 7. This act shall not repeal or invalidate existing orders and resolutions of the state highway commission or existing resolutions and ordinances of local authorities establishing speed limits within their respective jurisdictions.

Savings.

SEC. 8. Sections 46.48.010, 46.48.020, 46.48.022, 46.48.024, 46.48.030, 46.48.040, 46.48.044, 46.48.070, 46.48.090, and 46.48.100, chapter 12, Laws of 1961 and RCW 46.48.010, 46.48.020, 46.48.022, 46.48.024, 46.48.030, 46.48.040, 46.48.044, 46.48.070, 46.48.090 and 46.48.100, and section 46.48.021, chapter 12, Laws of 1961 as amended by section 1, chapter 120, Laws of 1961 and RCW 46.48.021 are each repealed.

Repeal.

Passed the House February 9, 1963.

Passed the Senate February 28, 1963.

Approved by the Governor March 7, 1963.