

SB 558 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. McKeown

Joint Committee On Transportation**Action Date:** 03/06/19**Action:** Do Pass the A-Eng bill.**House Vote****Yeas:** 6 - Evans, Findley, Lewis, McKeown, McLain, Noble**Nays:** 1 - Witt**Senate Vote****Yeas:** 5 - Bentz, Beyer, Boquist, Frederick, Gelser**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 3/6, 5/15, 5/20**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Allows a city or county to designate speed for a highway under its jurisdiction that is five miles per hour lower than the statutory speed if it is located in a residence district, is not an arterial highway, and if the city provides signage notifying the change of designated speed.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Survivability of accidents is reduced as speed increases
- Comparison to House Bill 2702 (2019)
- Appropriate speeds on residential streets
- Whether 85th percentile method is appropriate method to set speed limits
- Methods used in other countries to reduce traffic fatality rates
- Reasons for recent increase in traffic fatalities
- Whether cities would be liable for accidents after speed limits are changed

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Current law allows the City of Portland to designate the speed for a highway under the City's jurisdiction that is five miles per hour lower than the statutory speeds if the highway is located in a residential district. All other cities and counties are required to have road authorities make a formal request to the Department of Transportation to change speeds on highways. Formal requests are required to provide findings to justify the change in designated speed.

Cities, other than Portland, with a state highway within city limits must have the road authority make a request to the Department's Highway Division for a speed zone change. The request is forwarded to either the District Manager, Regional Manager, or State Traffic-Roadway Engineer to conduct a speed zone investigation and make a recommendation to grant or deny the request. The recommendation is sent to the Traffic-Roadway Section for approval. The local road authority is notified of the decision. A speed zone order is issued if the local road authority concurs. If they do not concur, the case is sent to the Speed Zone Review Panel which will issue a final decision.

Senate Bill 558-A allows all cities and counties the authority to establish, by ordinance, a designated speed for a highway under their jurisdiction. The measure specifies that the designated speed must be five miles per hour lower than the statutory speed, that the highway be located in a residence district and not an arterial highway,

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and that the city provide appropriate signage of the designated speed.