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HOUSE BILL 1307

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Shea, Schmick, Kretz, Short, and Taylor

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing local authorities to establish  
2 dual speed limits; and amending RCW 46.61.415.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.61.415 and 2013 c 264 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

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

13 (a) Decreases the limit at intersections; or

14 (b) Increases the limit but not to more than sixty miles per  
15 hour; or

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

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

1 maximum speed permitted under RCW 46.61.400(2) but shall not exceed  
2 sixty miles per hour.

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

7 (b) A speed limit established under this subsection by a city or  
8 town does not need to be determined on the basis of an engineering  
9 and traffic investigation if the city or town has developed  
10 procedures regarding establishing a maximum speed limit under this  
11 subsection. Any speed limit established under this subsection may be  
12 canceled within one year of its establishment, and the previous speed  
13 limit reestablished, without an engineering and traffic  
14 investigation. This subsection does not otherwise affect the  
15 requirement that cities and towns conduct an engineering and traffic  
16 investigation to determine whether to increase speed limits.

17 (c) When establishing speed limits under this subsection, cities  
18 and towns shall consult the manual on uniform traffic control devices  
19 as adopted by the Washington state department of transportation.

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

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

33 (6) Any alteration of maximum limits on state highways within  
34 incorporated cities or towns by local authorities shall not be  
35 effective until such alteration has been approved by the secretary of  
36 transportation.

1       (7) Local authorities in their respective jurisdictions may  
2 establish by ordinance dual speed limits by use in their  
3 jurisdictions.

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