



H.B. 55

124th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

**Reps. Williams, Womer Benjamin, Ogg, Seitz, Brinkman, Young, Hollister,
Schuring, Distel**

BILL SUMMARY

- Increases from 55 miles per hour to 65 miles per hour the speed limit applicable to motor vehicles weighing more than 8,000 pounds when empty and to noncommercial buses on certain freeways and certain multi-lane highways on which other motor vehicles can be legally operated at 65 miles per hour.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Current law prescribes a speed limit of 55 miles per hour at all times on all portions of freeways that are part of the interstate system and on all portions of freeways that are not part of the interstate system, but are built to the standards and specifications that are applicable to freeways that are part of the interstate system for operators of any motor vehicle weighing in excess of 8,000 pounds empty weight and any noncommercial bus (existing sec. 4511.21(B)(10)). Current law also specifically prohibits any person from operating a motor vehicle, trackless trolley, or streetcar on those freeways at a speed exceeding 55 miles per hour if the motor vehicle weighs in excess of 8,000 pounds empty weight or is a noncommercial bus (existing sec. 4511.21(D)(3)).

For the operators of any motor vehicle weighing 8,000 pounds or less empty weight and any commercial bus, the speed limit on some freeways that are part of the interstate system and some freeways that are not part of the interstate system, but are built to the standards and specifications that are applicable to freeways that are part of the interstate system also is 55 miles per hour (existing sec. 4511.21(B)(11)). For those same operators, the speed limit on other of those freeways and on certain rural, divided, multi-lane highways that are part of the National Highway System is 65 miles per hour (existing sec. 4511.21(B)(12)). The result is that some freeways have a speed limit of 55 miles per hour for all vehicles while other freeways and rural, divided, multi-lane highways have two speed limits: a speed limit of 55 miles per hour for motor vehicles weighing in

excess of 8,000 pounds empty weight and noncommercial buses, and a speed limit of 65 miles per hour for motor vehicles weighing less than 8,000 pounds empty weight and commercial buses.

The bill removes all of the following from the speed limit law: all references to "motor vehicles weighing 8,000 pounds or less empty weight," "motor vehicles weighing in excess of 8,000 pounds empty weight," "commercial bus," and "noncommercial bus"; the definitions of the last two terms; and the provision that specifically prohibits the operation on the freeways discussed above of a motor vehicle weighing in excess of 8,000 pounds empty weight or a noncommercial bus at a speed in excess of 55 miles per hour. The result under the bill is that in the case of those freeways and other multi-lane divided highways that currently have a speed limit of 55 miles per hour for some motor vehicles and a speed limit of 65 miles per hour for other motor vehicles, the speed limit of 65 miles per hour applies to all motor vehicles, regardless of weight, and includes both commercial and noncommercial buses. (Proposed sec. 4511.21(B)(10) and (11), (D)(2), and (N).)

The bill does not affect those freeways and other multi-lane divided highways that currently have a speed limit of 55 miles per hour for all motor vehicles.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
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