

January 27, 1959.
Highway Safety.

House File 155
By ROBINSON, WIER,
SERSLAND, FRANK (Hoxie).

Passed House, Date..... Passed Senate, Date.....
Vote: Ayes..... Nays..... Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....
Approved.....

A BILL FOR

An Act relating to increasing or decreasing speed limits on primary highways or extensions of primary highways in cities and towns.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

1 Section 1. Section three hundred twenty-one point two hundred
2 ninety (321.290), Code 1958, is hereby amended by inserting in line
3 five (5) of said section immediately following the word, "greater"
4 the words, "or less".

5 Further amend said section by striking from line eight (8) the
6 words, "of a highway" and inserting in lieu thereof the words, "of
7 the primary road system or upon any part of a primary road exten-
8 sion".

1 Sec. 2. Section three hundred twenty-one point two hundred
2 ninety-three (321.293), Code 1958, is hereby amended by inserting
3 in line two (2) of said section immediately following the word,
4 "discretion" the words, "subject to the approval of the state high-
5 way commission".

6 Further amend said section by inserting after the word, "hour."
7 in line ten (10) the following: "If local authorities fail to
8 authorize by ordinance higher speeds than those stated in section
9 321.285 upon through highways or upon highways or portions thereof
10 where stop signs have been erected at the entrances thereto, the
11 state highway commission may recommend, upon the basis of an

12 engineering and traffic investigation, to the local authorities
13 that the speed limit be increased. If local authorities fail to
14 increase the speed limit upon said recommendation of the state
15 highway commission, said commission shall declare a reasonable
16 and safe speed limit which shall be effective when appropriate
17 signs are erected giving notice thereof."

EXPLANATION OF HOUSE FILE 155

The present law provides that when the state highway commission has determined, upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, that the speed limit as set forth under the provisions of Chapter 321, Code 1958, is greater than is reasonable or safe under existing conditions, the state highway commission shall determine and declare a reasonable and safe speed limit. Recognizing, as we must, that speed limits do exist, which are unreasonable and in some instances unsafe under the circumstances, and in the main exist in cities and towns of the state of Iowa, this bill will allow the state highway commission to determine, upon the basis of traffic analysis and engineering investigation, and establish safe and reasonable speed limits on the primary road system and extensions thereof. This bill in no wise removes the discretion placed in local authorities to authorize speed limits by ordinance as set out in section 321.293, Code 1958, but does subject the exercise of this discretion to approval by the state highway commission. The bill further provides that if the state highway commission shall determine, upon analysis and investigation, that an unreasonable or unsafe speed limit exists within a city or town said commission may recommend a reasonable and safe speed limit. If the local authorities fail to act on said recommendation then the state highway commission shall have the power to determine and establish a reasonable and safe speed limit, which will be effective as provided in this bill.