

House File 2177 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2177

BY HEARTSILL

A BILL FOR

1 An Act concerning public notice of changes to the speed limit
2 on a primary highway.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.290, Code 2014, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 **321.290 Special restrictions.**

4 1. a. Whenever the department ~~shall determine~~ determines
5 upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation
6 that any speed limit ~~hereinbefore~~ set forth in this chapter
7 is greater or less than is reasonable or safe under the
8 conditions found to exist at any intersection or other place
9 or upon any part of the primary road system or upon any part
10 of a primary road extension, ~~said~~ the department shall hold a
11 public meeting, after reasonable notice, to share information
12 from the engineering and traffic investigation and provide an
13 opportunity for public discussion and comment. Following the
14 public meeting, the department shall determine and declare a
15 reasonable and safe speed limit thereat which for the location.
16 If the determination is to change the existing speed limit,
17 the department shall provide notice of the change by issuing
18 a press release available to all local media outlets serving
19 the area affected by the change. The change in the speed limit
20 shall be effective following the provision of such notice and
21 when appropriate signs giving notice thereof of the speed limit
22 are erected at such the intersection or other place or part of
23 the highway.

24 b. This subsection does not apply to speed limit changes in
25 a road work zone.

26 2. Whenever ~~the council in any a city shall determine~~
27 council determines upon the basis of an engineering and traffic
28 investigation that any speed limit ~~hereinbefore~~ set forth in
29 this chapter is greater or less than is reasonable or safe
30 under the conditions found to exist at any intersection or
31 other place or upon any part of the city street system, except
32 primary road extensions, ~~said~~ the council shall determine and
33 adopt by ordinance such higher or lower speed limit as ~~it the~~
34 council deems reasonable and safe thereat for the location.
35 Such speed limit shall be effective when proper and appropriate

1 signs giving notice ~~thereof~~ of the speed limit are erected at
2 such ~~intersections~~ intersection or other place or part of the
3 street.

4 EXPLANATION

5 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
6 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

7 Under current law, when the department of transportation
8 determines, following an engineering and traffic investigation,
9 that an existing speed limit at an intersection or other
10 location on a primary highway is greater or less than is
11 reasonably safe, the department is authorized to declare a new
12 speed limit. The new speed limit takes effect after proper
13 and appropriate signs are posted at the intersection or other
14 location on the primary highway.

15 This bill requires the department to hold a public meeting
16 to share information from the engineering and traffic
17 investigation and provide an opportunity for public discussion
18 and comment before changing a speed limit. Following the
19 public meeting, if the department determines that a change
20 in the speed limit is warranted, the department is required
21 to provide notice of the change by issuing a press release
22 available to all local media outlets serving the area affected
23 by the change. The change in the speed limit then becomes
24 effective following the press release and the posting of proper
25 and appropriate signage at the intersection or other location
26 on the primary highway.

27 The requirements of the bill do not apply to speed limit
28 changes in a road work zone.