

House File 2023 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2023
BY MEGGERS

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to speed limits, including the speed limit in
2 school districts and the penalty for speeding in excess of
3 twenty miles per hour over the limit.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 321.285, subsection 2, paragraph a,
2 subparagraphs (1) and (2), Code 2026, are amended to read as
3 follows:

4 (1) Twenty miles per hour in any a business district or
5 school district.

6 (2) Twenty-five miles per hour in any a residence or school
7 district.

8 Sec. 2. Section 805.8A, subsection 5, paragraph a,
9 subparagraph (5), Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

10 (5) One Two hundred ~~thirty-five~~ eighty-five dollars plus five
11 dollars for each mile per hour of excessive speed over twenty
12 miles per hour over the limit.

13 Sec. 3. IMPLEMENTATION. Notwithstanding section 321.252,
14 321.255, 321.285, or any other provision of law to the contrary,
15 when updating speed limit signs as a result of the enactment
16 of this Act, a county or city, as applicable, may attach
17 nonpermanent overlays or stickers approved by the department of
18 transportation to existing speed limit signs in order to display
19 the new speed limit. The nonpermanent overlays or stickers may
20 be used until the applicable speed limit sign is replaced based
21 on the county's or city's respective replacement schedule and any
22 applicable specifications or requirements.

23 EXPLANATION

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

26 Under current law, the speed limit in a school district
27 is 25 miles per hour (MPH). Each school district must be
28 marked by distinctive signs as provided by the current manual
29 of uniform traffic control devices adopted by the department
30 of transportation and placed on the highway at the limits of
31 such school district. For purposes of Code chapter 321 (motor
32 vehicles and law of the road), "school district" means the
33 territory contiguous to and including a highway for a distance of
34 200 feet in either direction from a schoolhouse in a city. This
35 bill reduces the speed limit from 25 MPH to 20 MPH in a school

1 district.

2 Pursuant to current law, county boards of supervisors (Code
3 section 321.285(4)) and city councils (Code section 321.290(2))
4 are authorized to determine and declare a reduced speed limit
5 that is reasonable and proper on secondary roads or city streets,
6 as applicable, based on an engineering and traffic investigation.
7 Such speed limit becomes effective when proper and appropriate
8 signs giving notice of the speed limit are erected. The bill
9 authorizes a county or city, as applicable, when updating speed
10 limit signs as a result of the bill, to attach nonpermanent
11 overlays or stickers approved by the department of transportation
12 to existing speed limit signs in order to display the new speed
13 limit. The nonpermanent overlays or stickers may be used until
14 the applicable speed limit sign is replaced based on the county's
15 or city's respective replacement schedule and any applicable
16 specifications or requirements.

17 Under current law, a person who operates a motor vehicle in
18 excess of a speed limit under Code section 321.236(5, 11)
19 (public parks and alleys), Code section 321.285 (speed
20 restrictions generally), Code section 321.383(5) (implements of
21 husbandry), Code section 3210.5(1) (personal delivery devices),
22 or Code section 461A.36 (state parks and preserves), commits a
23 simple misdemeanor punishable by a scheduled fine that varies
24 depending on the excessive speed. The fine ranges from \$30 for a
25 speed in excess of the limit by not more than 5 MPH to \$135 plus
26 \$5 for each MPH of excessive speed over 20 MPH over the limit.
27 The bill increases the scheduled fine for excessive speed over
28 20 MPH over the limit to \$285 plus \$5 for each MPH of excessive
29 speed over 20 MPH over the limit.