

**Senate File 212 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 212  
BY SWEENEY

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the speed limit on unpaved roads under county  
2 jurisdiction, and making penalties applicable.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 321.285, subsection 4, Code 2025, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 4. A reasonable and proper speed is required, but not greater  
4 than ~~fifty-five~~ forty-five miles per hour at ~~any time between~~  
5 ~~sunrise and sunset, and not greater than fifty miles per hour at~~  
6 ~~any time between sunset and sunrise,~~ on secondary roads unless  
7 such roads are surfaced with concrete or asphalt or a combination  
8 of both, in which case the speed limits shall be the same  
9 as provided in subsection 3. When the board of supervisors  
10 of any county ~~shall determine~~ determines upon the basis of an  
11 engineering and traffic investigation that the speed limit on any  
12 secondary road is greater than is reasonable and proper under the  
13 conditions found to exist at any intersection or other place or  
14 upon any part of a secondary road, the board shall determine and  
15 declare a reasonable and proper speed limit at the intersection  
16 or other part of the secondary road. The speed limits as  
17 determined by the board of supervisors shall be effective when  
18 appropriate signs giving notice of the speed limits are erected  
19 by the board of supervisors at the intersection or other place or  
20 part of the highway.

21 Sec. 2. IMPLEMENTATION. Notwithstanding section 321.252,  
22 321.255, 321.285, or any other provision of law to the contrary,  
23 when updating speed limit signs as a result of the enactment of  
24 this Act, a county may attach nonpermanent overlays or stickers  
25 approved by the department of transportation to existing speed  
26 limit signs in order to display the new speed limit. The  
27 nonpermanent overlays or stickers may be used by the county  
28 until the applicable speed limit sign is replaced based on the  
29 county's replacement schedule and any applicable specifications  
30 or requirements.

31 EXPLANATION

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

34 Under current law, the maximum speed limit on roads under  
35 county jurisdiction (secondary roads) is 55 miles per hour,

1 unless such roads are not surfaced with concrete or asphalt, in  
2 which case the maximum speed limit is 55 miles per hour at any  
3 time between sunrise and sunset and 50 miles per hour at any time  
4 between sunset and sunrise. This bill reduces the maximum speed  
5 limit on secondary roads to 45 miles per hour if such roads are  
6 not surfaced with concrete or asphalt, regardless of daylight.

7 The bill authorizes a county, when updating speed limit signs  
8 as a result of the bill, to attach nonpermanent overlays or  
9 stickers approved by the department of transportation to existing  
10 speed limit signs in order to display the new speed limit.  
11 The nonpermanent overlays or stickers may be used by the county  
12 until the applicable speed limit sign is replaced based on the  
13 county's replacement schedule and any applicable specifications  
14 or requirements.

15 A person who exceeds a speed limit under Code section 321.285  
16 is guilty of a simple misdemeanor punishable by a scheduled fine  
17 that varies depending on the excessive speed over the limit. The  
18 fine ranges from \$30 for a speed in excess of the limit by not  
19 more than 5 miles per hour to \$135 plus \$5 for each mile per hour  
20 of excessive speed over 20 miles per hour over the limit, with  
21 increased fines in road work zones.