

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4781 AS INTRODUCED 6-11-99

House Bill 4781 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to require the director of the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Department of State Police, to establish test zones on U.S. highways and state trunklines (all season route highways) within which the speed limit could be increased to 65 miles per hour. Test zones would be set up beginning September 1, 1999 and they would continue for one year. The zones would be identified where the speed limit now is 55 miles per hour, in order to conduct a study to determine whether speed limits could be increased. The total number of highway and freeway miles used for the tests could not exceed 1,500 miles, and the speed limit would be 65 miles per hour in 750 miles or more of the total miles tested.

Under House Bill 4781, the findings from the study would be submitted by October 15, 2000, to the chairs of the House and Senate standing committees that consider transportation and traffic issues. The study would be based on traffic congestion and other traffic safety issues, as determined by the director of the Department of State Police, and on engineering criteria as determined by the director of the Department of Transportation. The study would include recommendations as to whether the speed limit could be increased to 65 miles per hour on any of the highways, and any speed limit increases would be effective January 1, 2001. [Note. House Bill 4781 is similar but not identical to House Bill 4377 (H-2), which was also introduced by Representative Vear and which was considered by the Transportation Committee earlier in this legislative session.]

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.