



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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**TOWNSHIP TRAFFIC SPEED
RESTRICTIONS; 70 MPH FREEWAY
SPEED LIMIT**

**House Bill 4133
Sponsor: Rep. Philip LaJoy
Committee: Transportation**

Complete to 2-12-03

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4133 AS INTRODUCED 1-30-03

Under current law, speeds on both state trunk lines and county roads are set by the State Transportation Commission, or the county road commission with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, and the director of the Department of State Police, upon the basis of an engineering and traffic study.

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to allow the State Transportation Commission and the director of the Department of State Police jointly to determine safe road speeds only on state trunk lines. Further, the bill would allow a county road commission, the township board, and the director of the Department of State Police jointly to determine safe speeds on county highways. In both instances, the officials would be required to base any speed limit on an engineering and traffic study.

Specifically, the bill states that if the county road commission, the township board, and the director of the Department of State Police jointly determine upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that the speed of vehicular traffic on a county highway is greater or less than is reasonable or safe under the conditions found to exist, then the officials acting jointly may establish a reasonable and safe maximum or minimum speed limit that would be effective at the times determined, when appropriate signs giving notice of the speed limit are erected at the intersection or other part of the highway. The bill also would delete county highways from the kinds of roads for which state agencies are responsible to set safe speeds.

In addition, the bill specifies that the maximum speed limit on all freeways would be 70 miles per hour, except that the Department of Transportation could designate not more than 170 miles of freeway in the state on which the speed limit could be less than 70 miles per hour. Currently under the law, the maximum speed limit is 65 miles per hour, and the department can designate 170 miles of freeway on which the limit is less than 65 miles per hour. Further, the bill would delete a reference to a study, undertaken in 1996 to pilot a speed limit increase on freeway miles within five test zones. This provision states that if the study indicates that certain miles of freeway are eligible for an increased speed limit, those miles of freeway may be increased to 70 miles per hour.

MCL 257.628

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