

HOUSE BILL 222

Introduced by O'Keefe, et al.

1/16	Introduced
1/16	Referred to Highways & Transportation
1/17	First Reading
1/17	Fiscal Note Requested
1/22	Fiscal Note Received
1/22	Fiscal Note Printed
1/29	Hearing
2/05	Tabled in Committee

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HOUSE BILL NO. 222
INTRODUCED BY Phyllis Wanzor and Kennedy

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING NOTICE AT ENTRANCES INTO THE STATE OF MONTANA OF MINIMUM SPEED REGULATIONS; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-8-311, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 61-8-311, MCA, is amended to read:

"61-8-311. Minimum speed regulations. (1) A person may not drive a motor vehicle at a speed slow enough to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic except when reduced speed is necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

(2) On a two-lane highway where passing is unsafe because of traffic in the opposite direction or other conditions, a slow-moving vehicle, including a passenger vehicle, behind which four or more vehicles are formed in line shall must turn off the roadway at the nearest place designated as a turnout by signs erected by the authority having jurisdiction over the highway or wherever sufficient area for a safe turnout exists in order to permit the vehicles following it to proceed. If the shoulder of the highway to the right of the overtaken vehicle is wide enough and is in a condition allowing safe travel, the driver of

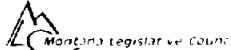
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the overtaken vehicle may drive onto the shoulder and proceed at a safe speed until passed. As used in this section, a slow-moving vehicle is one which is proceeding at a rate of speed less than the normal flow of traffic at the particular time and place. The department of highways is authorized to designate and construct such turnouts and to erect signs at appropriate places advising motorists of this statute.

(3) If the department of highways or local authorities within their respective jurisdictions determine on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that slow speeds on any part of a highway consistently impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, the commission or the local authority may set a minimum speed limit below which a person may not drive a vehicle except when necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

(4) The department of highways shall prominently display on the federal-aid interstate or primary highway systems notice of the provisions of this section at ports of entry or checking stations established under 60-2-301 and at other locations that the department designates.

-End-



-2- INTRODUCED BILL
HB 222

STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for HB0222, as introduced.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

An act requiring the Department of Highways to display notices at entrances into the State of Montana of minimum speed regulations and amending section 61-8-311, MCA.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. Department of Highways must post a notice of the provisions of 61-8-311, MCA, at ports of entry, checking stations and other locations designated by the department.
2. At least three notices will be posted at each rest area, weigh station, five interstate and 26 primary ports.
3. Many existing turnouts are inadequate for large volumes of high speed traffic. Approximately 26 turnouts will require improvements to satisfy current design standards for lines-of-sight, egress/access lanes, turning and other highway safety standards.
4. Installation of the notices will be completed within one year.
5. Routine maintenance will cost approximately 20% of the initial installation cost or \$20,400 per year.

FISCAL IMPACT:Dept. of Highways:


	FY 92			FY 93		
	Current Law	Proposed Law	Difference	Current Law	Proposed Law	Difference
<u>Expenditures:</u>						
Personal Services	0	132,271	132,271	0	0	0
Operating Costs	0	881,812	881,812	0	20,400	20,400
Total	0	1,014,083	1,014,083	0	20,400	20,400
<u>Funding:</u>						
State Special	0	1,014,083	1,014,083	0	20,400	20,400

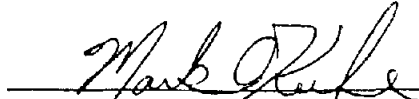
LONG-RANGE EFFECTS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

Increasing the Department of Highways construction and/or maintenance responsibilities will accelerate depletion of the highway special revenue fund.

TECHNICAL NOTES:

In order for the notice to be effective, it must be clearly visible and easy to read. The information required to be printed on a sign pertaining to the provisions of 61-8-311, MCA, is too complex for a sign which a driver can quickly read and comprehend.


 ROD SUNDSTED, BUDGET DIRECTOR
 Office of Budget and Program Planning
 1-21-91
 DATE


 MARK O'KEEFE, PRIMARY SPONSOR
 Fiscal Note for HB0222, as introduced.
 1/22/91
 DATE
HB 222