

HOUSE BILL 743

Introduced by Scott, et al.

2/11	Introduced
2/11	Referred to Highways & Transportation
2/11	First Reading
2/11	Fiscal Note Requested
2/16	Fiscal Note Received
2/18	Fiscal Note Printed
2/21	Hearing
2/21	Tabled in Committee

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 743
 2 INTRODUCED BY John Paul S. ...
 3 Richard D. ...
 4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE
 5 DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS TO MARK WITH A FLASHING LIGHT EACH
 6 POINT ON A FEDERAL-AID INTERSTATE HIGHWAY WHERE THE SPEED
 7 LIMIT IS REDUCED FROM 65 MILES AN HOUR TO 55 MILES AN HOUR;
 8 AND AMENDING SECTION 61-8-304, MCA."

9
10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

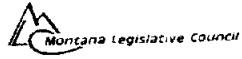
11 **Section 1.** Section 61-8-304, MCA, is amended to read:

12 "61-8-304. Fuel conservation speed limit -- exception
 13 to the basic rule. (1) In order to insure conservation of a
 14 resource, the speed limit for vehicles traveling on a
 15 federal-aid interstate highway outside an urbanized area of
 16 50,000 population or more is 65 miles an hour and the speed
 17 limit for vehicles traveling on federal-aid interstate
 18 highways within an urbanized area of 50,000 population or
 19 more or on any other public highway of this state is 55
 20 miles an hour, except as provided under 61-8-309.

21 (2) A speed limit imposed pursuant to this section is
 22 an exception to the requirements of 61-8-303 and 61-8-312,
 23 and a speed in excess of the speed limit established
 24 pursuant to this section is unlawful notwithstanding any
 25 provision of 61-8-303 and 61-8-312.

1 (3) The department of highways shall mark with a
 2 flashing light each point on a federal-aid interstate
 3 highway within an urbanized area of 50,000 population or
 4 more where the speed limit for vehicles traveling on the
 5 highway is reduced from 65 miles an hour to 55 miles an
 6 hour."

-End-



-2- INTRODUCED BILL
 HB 743

STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for HB0743, as introduced.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

An act requiring the Department of Highways to mark with a flashing light each point on a federal-aid interstate highway where the speed limit is reduced from 65 miles an hour to 55 miles an hour; and amending Section 61-8-304, MCA.

ASSUMPTIONS:


1. Funding for the proposed legislation would be highways state special revenue.
2. The maintenance program of the Montana Department of Highways would install the posts, flashers and electrical hookups.
3. Single flashers would be placed on a minimum of four (4) signs at each city (right and left of inbound lanes) or a total of twelve (12) signs with flashers.
4. An estimated four and one-half (4 1/2) miles of interstate roadway is encompassed by these 55 m.p.h. speed limits.
5. Annual maintenance cost for the proposed flashers is approximately \$2,144 per year.


FISCAL IMPACT:Dept. of Highways

	FY 92			FY 93		
	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>Proposed Law</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>Proposed Law</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>						
Operating Expenses	0	36,000	36,000	0	2,144	2,144
<u>Funding:</u>						
State Special	0	36,000	36,000	0	2,144	2,144

TECHNICAL NOTES:

1. Only single flasher heads would be used in order to avoid conflict with double (bouncing ball) flasher installations or side-to-side flasher installations. The double (bouncing ball) flashers are reserved for school crossings and the side-to-side flashers are used at flagger stations.
2. Under low visibility conditions (fog, rain, snow, ...), flashers can fade or wash-out the message depicted upon the reflective sheeting of signs which can be detrimental to the readability of the sign legend.

 2-15-91
 ROD SUNDSTED, BUDGET DIRECTOR DATE
 Office of Budget and Program Planning

 2-18-91
 JOHN F. SCOTT, PRIMARY SPONSOR DATE
 Fiscal Note for HB0743, as introduced **HB 743**