

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

April 4, 1987

The meeting of the Highways and Transportation Committee was called to order at 8:00 a.m., on April 4, 1987, by Chairman Larry Tveit, in Room 410 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members of the Highways and Transportation Committee were present except Senator Abrams and Senator Williams who were excused.

CONSIDERATION ON HOUSE BILL 896: Representative Mercer, House District No. 50, sponsor of the bill, testified that House Bill 896 would change the speed limit in Montana from 55-miles per hour to 65-miles per hour. This change in the speed limit was due to the bill that is being passed in the United States Congress changing the speed limit nationwide from 55-miles an hour to 65-miles per hour. The original bill was passed by both the House of Representative and the Senate; it was vetoed by President Reagan but the veto was overridden by members of Congress allowing the states to change the speed limit.

The speed limit would insure conservation of a resource for vehicles traveling on a federal-aid interstate highway outside an urbanized area of 50,000 or more, such as Billings, Great Falls and Missoula. The change in the speed limit would not affect areas where the speed limit is posted in the urban areas.

Representative Mercer presented proposed amendments to House Bill 896. (See Exhibit 1)

PROPONENTS: Bill Goznell, Department of Highways, informed the committee that once House Bill 896 passed the Highway Department will begin posting the new signs for the 65-miles speed limit. The Highway Department is already changing the signs from 55-miles per hour to 65 miles per hour.

OPPONENTS: There were no opponents.

QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE: The committee questioned Representative Mercer as to what statistics show the percent of the driver's who become fatigued driving 55 miles per hour is. Representative Mercer responded by saying that he has statistics for everything and he would say that going 65-miles per hour causes less fatigue for the driver than 55-miles per hour.

The committee asked Representative Mercer when he felt Congress would be overriding the President's veto giving the states the power to change from 55-miles per hour to 65-miles per hour. He responded by saying that the House of Representatives overrode the veto and that the Senate would be overriding the veto within a day or so.

CLOSING: Representative Mercer closed by saying as soon as the committee passes House Bill 896, we can get House Bill 896 on the floor of the Senate and back to the House of Representatives. The Governor will then be able to sign House Bill 896 and Montana will once again have a 65-mile speed limit.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 896: A motion was made and seconded that House Bill 896 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Senator Tveit
Senator Larry Tveit, Chairman

ROLL CALL

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

50th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1987

Date 2/4/87

Highway - HB 896

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Chairman: Larry Tveit	✓		
Vice Chairman: Lawrence Stimatz	✓		
Senator Hubert J. Abrams	✓		✓
Senator William Farrell	✓		
Senator Tom Hager	✓		
Senator Sam Hofman	✓		
Senator Ray Lybeck	✓		
Senator Darryl Meyer			
Senator Cecil Weeding	✓		
Senator Bob Williams			✓

Each day attach to minutes.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

April 4 1987

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on Highways & Transportation

having had under consideration House Bill No. 896

third reading copy (blue)
color

"AN ACT PROVIDING A CONTINGENT INCREASE IN THE FUEL CONSERVATION SPEED LIMITE ON RURAL FEDERAL-AID INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS: AMENDING SECTION 61-3-304, MCA: AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

Rep. Mercer (Senator Tveit)

Respectfully report as follows: That House Bill 896 No. 896

1. Title, line 9.
Strike: "A CONTINGENT"
Insert: "AN IMMEDIATE"
2. Title, line 12.
Strike: "A CONTINGENT"
Insert: "AN IMMEDIATE"
3. Page 2, lines 6 through 13.
Following: "effective" on line 6
Strike: the remainder of line 6, through "allowed" on line 13.
Insert: "on passage and approval"

AND AS AMENDED
BE CONCURRED IN

DO PASS

XXXXXXXXXX
DO NOT PASS

Senator Larry Tveit Chairman.