

1 WHEREAS, passing a large vehicle on the interstate requires other drivers to
2 maintain a safe and steady speed and ensure there is adequate space between the two
3 vehicles to safely pass; and

4 WHEREAS, reduced speed limits for larger vehicles will assist in vehicles passing
5 efficiently and safely; and

6 WHEREAS, trucks and buses traveling at increased speeds have been a long standing
7 safety concern given their larger blind spots and increased size which results in restricted
8 maneuverability, longer stopping distances, and higher impact forces in a collision; and

9 WHEREAS, given the safety concerns associated with large vehicles many states
10 have implemented differential speed limits where larger vehicles have a posted speed limit
11 lower than passenger cars in lieu of uniform speed limits where the speed limits are the same
12 for both passenger cars and larger vehicles; and

13 WHEREAS, at least seven states have implemented differential speed limits to
14 enhance safety, including California, Idaho, Indiana, Michigan, Montana, Virginia, and
15 Washington.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
17 urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study the safety and
18 operational impacts of differential speed limits on interstate highways.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study conducted by the Department of
20 Transportation and Development shall include consideration and determination of the
21 following:

22 (1) What impact and to what extent do uniform speed limits and differential speed
23 limits have on traffic safety, specifically, the type and number of accidents, the type of
24 vehicles involved in these accidents, the severity of the accidents, and driver behavior in the
25 state of Louisiana?

26 (2) Whether safety and mobility will improve as a result of adopting differential
27 speed limits on interstate highways across the state, considering traffic volume, variability
28 in traffic speeds, crash history, and roadway geometry?

1 (3) Whether requiring school buses, truck-tractor, semi-trailers or any combination
2 of these vehicles to travel at a speed not to exceed ten miles per hour below the posted speed
3 limit will improve traffic conditions and safety on interstate highways of the state?

4 (4) Whether the gross weight of the motor vehicle should determine whether
5 differential speed limits should apply?

6 (5) Whether differential speed limits will yield fuel and emissions savings resulting
7 in energy conservation and environmental improvements in the state?

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation and
9 Development shall submit a written report to the Senate and House committees on
10 transportation, highways and public works and the member of the House of Representatives
11 representing House District Number 68 detailing its findings regarding the safety and
12 operational impacts of differential speed limits on or before January 1, 2018.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
14 to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Steve Carter

Urges and requests the Dept. of Transportation and Development to study the safety and operational impacts of differential speed limits on interstate highways.

Requires the study include consideration and determination of the following:

- (1) What impact and to what extent do uniform speed limits and differential speed limits have on traffic safety, specifically, the type and number of accidents, the type of vehicles involved in these accidents, the severity of the accidents, and driver behavior in the state of Louisiana?
- (2) Whether safety and mobility will improve as a result of adopting differential speed limits on interstate highways across the state, considering traffic volume, variability in traffic speeds, crash history, and roadway geometry?
- (3) Whether requiring school buses, truck-tractor, semi-trailers, or any combination of these vehicles to travel at a speed not to exceed ten miles per hour below the posted speed limit will improve traffic conditions and safety on interstate highways of the state?
- (4) Whether the gross weight of the motor vehicle should determine whether differential speed limits should apply?

- (5) Whether differential speed limits will yield fuel and emissions savings resulting in energy conservation and environmental improvements in the state?

Requires the Dept. of Transportation and Development to submit a written report to the Senate and House committees on transportation, highways and public works and the member of the House of Representatives representing House District No. 68 on or before Jan. 1, 2018.