

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 499

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAMBURG

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

TRAFFIC/VIOLATIONS: Establishes penalties for persons exceeding the speed limit or breaching construction zones and utility work safety zones under active construction with workers on site

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:57(A)(1), (H), and (I) and to enact R.S. 32:57(J), relative to
3 traffic offenses occurring in construction zones and utility work safety zones; to
4 provide specific monetary penalties for exceeding the speed limit or breaching a
5 construction zone or work safety zone when employees are present; to provide for
6 specific monetary and confinement penalties if motor vehicle violations occur in a
7 highway safety corridor; to provide for definitions; and to provide for related
8 matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 32:57(A)(1), (H), and (I) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
11 32:57(J) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §57. Penalties; alternatives to citation

13 A.(1) Except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection and Subsections
14 H and I of this Section, the first violation of the provisions of this Chapter or any
15 regulation of the department, secretary, and commissioner made pursuant thereto
16 shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred seventy-five dollars or by
17 imprisonment for not more than thirty days, or both, unless otherwise specifically
18 provided. A subsequent violation shall be punished by a fine of not more than five
19 hundred dollars or by imprisonment for not more than ninety days, or both.

20 * * *

1 H. If a person operating a motor vehicle exceeds the speed limit or breaches
2 a construction zone or utility work safety zone on the portion of a highway or road
3 which is under active construction or maintenance and construction or utility workers
4 are on site, or which is in the process of being repaired and construction or utility
5 workers are on site, the fine shall be ~~twice the standard fine imposed~~ not less than
6 five hundred dollars nor more than two thousand dollars.

7 I. If a person operating a motor vehicle violates the provisions of this
8 Chapter while on the portion of a highway which is designated as a highway safety
9 corridor pursuant to R.S. 32:267, the fine shall be ~~twice the standard fine imposed~~
10 not less than one thousand dollars nor more than two thousand dollars, or
11 imprisonment for not more than thirty days, or both, unless otherwise specifically
12 provided.

13 J. For purposes of Subsections H and I of this Section, the following words
14 shall have the following meanings:

15 (1) "Construction zone" shall mean an area of a highway with construction,
16 maintenance, or utility work activities marked by temporary traffic control devices
17 consisting of signs, channelizing devices, barriers, pavement markings, and work
18 vehicles.

19 (2) "Utility work safety zone" shall mean an area where utility companies
20 are actively performing work such as digging, installing, or repairing underground
21 or overhead utilities marked by temporary traffic control signs.

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)]

HB 499 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Bamburg

Abstract: Establishes specific penalties for persons exceeding the speed limit or breaching construction zones and utility work safety zones.

Present law specifies that except as provided in present law, the first violation of the provisions of present law or any regulation of the dept. is punishable by a fine of not more than \$175 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or both, unless otherwise

specifically provided. Further, specifies that a subsequent violation is punishable by a fine of not more than \$500 or by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both.

Proposed law provides for an exception to present law, and excludes the standard imposed fine from applying to persons operating a vehicle and exceeding the speed limit or breaching a construction zone or utility safety zone on portions of the highway or road under active construction or maintenance and construction or utility workers are onsite.

Present law specifies that if a person operating a motor vehicle exceeds the speed limit on the portion of a highway under active construction and construction workers are on site or in the process of being repaired and construction workers are on site the fine is double the standard fine imposed.

Proposed law modifies present law by specifying that if a person operating a motor vehicle exceeds the speed limit or breaches a construction zone or utility safety zone on the portion of a highway or road under active construction or maintenance, and construction or utility workers are on site, or in the process of being repaired, and construction or utility workers are on site, and changes the fine imposed from double the standard fine to not less than \$500 nor more than \$2,000.

Present law specifies that if a person operates a motor vehicle and violates the provisions of present law while on the portion of a highway which is designated as a highway safety corridor pursuant to present law, the fine will be double the standard fine imposed.

Proposed law modifies present law by changing the fine imposed from double the standard fine to not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$2,000, or imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or both, unless otherwise specifically provided.

(Amends R.S. 32:57(A)(1), (H), and (I); Adds R.S. 32:57(J))