HLS 17RS-2803 ORIGINAL

2017 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 112

BY REPRESENTATIVE STEVE CARTER

TRAFFIC/SPEED LIMITS: Requests the Department of Transportation and Development to study speed limit policies for certain motor vehicles

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study the safety
3	and operational impacts of differential speed limits on interstate highways and to
4	report the findings to the Senate and House committees on transportation, highways
5	and public works and to the member of the House of Representatives representing
6	House District Number 68 on or before January 1, 2018.
7	WHEREAS, school buses, truck-tractor, semi-trailers or any combination of these
8	vehicles are the largest vehicles on the roadway and when these vehicles travel at increased
9	speeds they can negatively impact driver behavior and increase traffic and fatalities; and
10	WHEREAS, large vehicles traveling at increased speeds in wet conditions can splash
11	or spray significant amounts of water or mud thus impacting a driver's ability to operate a
12	vehicle safely; and
13	WHEREAS, many truck drivers do not adjust to prevailing road conditions which
14	can lead to more severe motor vehicle accidents, even if the frequency of crashes is
15	unchanged or decreased; and
16	WHEREAS, reduced speed limits for large vehicles may afford drivers of those
17	vehicles sufficient time to react when an emergency occurs on the road, which can result in
18	a reduction in the frequency and severity of motor vehicle accidents; and
19	WHEREAS, a reduction in speed limits for large vehicles will positively impact fuel
20	economy, and contribute to a decrease in fuel consumption and associated costs; and

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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

speed limits on interstate highways across the state, considering traffic volume, variability

in traffic speeds, crash history, and roadway geometry?

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- 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
- 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
- operational impacts of differential speed limits on or before January 1, 2018.
- 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?
- 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?
- Whether the gross weight of the motor vehicle should determine whether differential speed limits should apply?

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(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.