

HOUSE BILL NO. 603

INTRODUCED BY A. WITTICH

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT INCREASING THE MAXIMUM DAYTIME SPEED LIMIT ON CERTAIN FEDERAL-AID INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS; PROVIDING THAT THE PROPOSED ACT BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MONTANA; AMENDING SECTION 61-8-303, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

**Section 1.** Section 61-8-303, MCA, is amended to read:

**"61-8-303. Speed restrictions.** (1) Except as provided in 61-8-309, 61-8-310, and 61-8-312, the speed limit for vehicles traveling:

(a) on a federal-aid interstate highway outside an urbanized area of 50,000 population or more is ~~75~~ 80 miles an hour at all times and the speed limit for vehicles traveling on federal-aid interstate highways within an urbanized area of 50,000 population or more is 65 miles an hour at all times;

(b) on any other public highway of this state is 70 miles an hour during the daytime and 65 miles an hour during the nighttime;

(c) in an urban district is 25 miles an hour.

(2) A vehicle subject to the speed limits imposed in subsection (1) traveling on a two-lane road may exceed the speed limits imposed in subsection (1) by 10 miles an hour in order to overtake and pass a vehicle and return safely to the right-hand lane.

(3) Subject to the maximum speed limits set forth in subsection (1), a person shall operate a vehicle in a careful and prudent manner and at a reduced rate of speed no greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions existing at the point of operation, taking into account the amount and character of traffic, visibility, weather, and roadway conditions.

(4) Except when a special hazard exists that requires lower speed for compliance with subsection (3), the limits specified in this section are the maximum lawful speeds allowed.

(5) "Daytime" means from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. "Nighttime" means at any other hour.



1 (6) The speed limits set forth in this section may be altered by the transportation commission or a local  
2 authority as authorized in 61-8-309, 61-8-310, 61-8-313, and 61-8-314."

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4 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. If approved by the electorate, [this act] is effective January  
5 1, 2017.

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7 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Submission to electorate. [This act] shall be submitted to the qualified  
8 electors of Montana at the general election to be held in November 2016 by printing on the ballot the full title of  
9 [this act] and the following:

10  YES on Legislative Referendum \_\_\_\_\_.

11  NO on Legislative Referendum \_\_\_\_\_.

12 - END -