STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

SENATE BILL 322 By: Stanislawski

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to motor vehicles; amending 47 O.S. 2011, Sections 11-801 and 11-806, which relate to speed limitations; authorizing temporary reduced speed limit by certain signs; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, Section 11-801, is amended to read as follows:

Section 11-801. A. Any person driving a vehicle on a highway shall drive the same at a careful and prudent speed not greater than nor less than is reasonable and proper, having due regard to the traffic, surface and width of the highway and any other conditions then existing. No person shall drive any vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than will permit the driver to bring it to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead.

B. Except when a special hazard exists that requires lower speed for compliance with subsection A of this section, the limits specified by law or established as hereinafter authorized shall be

maximum lawful speeds, and no person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed in excess of the following maximum limits:

1. Seventy-five (75) miles per hour in locations comprising:

   a. the turnpike system, and

   b. rural segments of the interstate highway system, as may be designated by the Transportation Commission. Provided, however, the Commission shall determine prior to the designation of such segments that the public safety will not be jeopardized;

2. Seventy (70) miles per hour in locations which are:

   a. four-lane divided highways including, but not limited to, the interstate highway system, and

   b. super two-lane highways. As used in this section, a super two-lane highway shall mean any two-lane highway with designated passing lanes, and consisting of paved shoulders not less than eight (8) feet in width;

3. Sixty-five (65) miles per hour in other locations;

4. For a school bus, fifty-five (55) miles per hour on paved two-lane highways except on multilane divided highways, turnpikes, and interstate highways where the maximum shall be sixty-five (65) miles per hour;

5. On any highway outside of a municipality in a properly marked school zone, twenty-five (25) miles per hour, provided the zone is marked with appropriate warning signs placed in accordance

with the latest edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The Department of Transportation may determine on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that a speed limit higher than twenty-five (25) miles per hour may be reasonable and safe under conditions as they exist upon a highway, and post an alternative school zone speed limit. The Department shall mark such school zones, or entrances and exits onto highways by buses or students, so that the maximum speed provided by this section shall be established therein. Exits and entrances to controlled-access highways which are within such school zones shall be marked in the same manner as other highways. The county commissioners shall mark such school zones along the county roads so that the maximum speed provided by this section shall be established therein. The signs may be either permanent or temporary. The Department shall give priority over all other signing projects to the foregoing duty to mark school zones. The Department shall also provide other safety devices for school zones which are needed in the opinion of the Department;

6. Twenty-five (25) miles per hour or a posted alternative school zone speed limit through state schools located on the state-owned land adjoining or outside the limits of a corporate city or town where a state educational institution is established;

7. Thirty-five (35) miles per hour on a highway in any state park or wildlife refuge. Provided, however, that the provisions of

this paragraph shall not include the State Capitol park area, and no person shall drive any vehicle at a rate of speed in excess of fifty-five (55) miles per hour on any state or federal designated highway within such areas; and

8. For any vehicle or combination of vehicles with solid rubber or metal tires, ten (10) miles per hour.

The maximum speed limits set forth in this section may be altered as authorized in Sections 11-802 and 11-803 of this title.

C. The Commission is hereby authorized to prescribe maximum and minimum speeds for all vehicles and any combinations of vehicles using controlled-access highways. Such regulations shall become effective after signs have been posted on these highways giving notice thereof. Such regulations may apply to an entirely controlled-access highway or to selected sections thereof as may be designated by the Commission. It shall be a violation of this section to drive any vehicle at a faster rate of speed than such prescribed maximum or at a slower rate of speed than such prescribed minimum. However, all vehicles shall at all times conform to the limits set forth in subsection A of this section.

Copies of such regulations certified as in effect on any particular date by the Secretary of the Commission shall be accepted as evidence in any court in this state. Whenever changes have been made in speed zones, copies of such regulations shall be filed with the Commissioner of Public Safety.

D. The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority is hereby authorized to prescribe maximum and minimum speeds for trucks, buses and automobiles using turnpikes. The regulation pertaining to automobiles shall apply to all vehicles not commonly classified as either trucks or buses. Such regulations shall become effective only after approval by the Commissioner of Public Safety, and after signs have been posted on the turnpike giving notice thereof. Such regulations may apply to an entire turnpike project or to selected sections thereof as may be designated by the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority. It shall be a violation of this section to drive a vehicle at a faster rate of speed than such prescribed maximum speed or at a slower rate of speed than such prescribed minimum speed. However, all vehicles shall at all times conform to the requirements of subsection A of this section.

Copies of such regulations, certified as in effect on any particular date by the Secretary of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, shall be accepted in evidence in any court in this state.

E. The driver of every vehicle shall, consistent with the requirements of subsection A of this section, drive at an appropriate reduced speed when approaching and crossing an intersection or railway grade crossing, when approaching and going around a curve, when approaching a hillcrest, when driving upon any narrow or winding roadway, and when special hazard exists with respect to pedestrians or other traffic, or by reason of weather or

highway conditions. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority may post, by changeable message sign or other appropriate sign, a temporary reduced speed limit for maintenance operations or when special hazards with respect to pedestrians, other traffic, an accident, by reason of weather or when other hazardous highway conditions exist.

F. 1. No person shall drive a vehicle on a county road at a speed in excess of fifty-five (55) miles per hour unless posted otherwise by the board of county commissioners, as provided in subparagraphs a through c of this paragraph, as follows:

a. the board of county commissioners may determine, by resolution, a maximum speed limit which shall apply to all county roads which are not otherwise posted for speed,

b. the board of county commissioners shall provide public notice of the speed limit on all nonposted roads by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. The notice shall be published once weekly for a period of four (4) continuous weeks, and

c. the board of county commissioners shall forward the resolution to the Director of the Department and to the Commissioner of Public Safety.

2. The Department shall post speed limit information, as determined pursuant to the provisions of subparagraphs a through c

of paragraph 1 of this subsection, on the county line marker where any state highway enters a county and at all off-ramps where interstate highways or turnpikes enter a county. The signs shall read as follows:

ENTERING _____ COUNTY

COUNTY ROAD SPEED LIMIT

_____ MPH

UNLESS POSTED OTHERWISE

The appropriate board of county commissioners shall reimburse the Department the full cost of the signage required herein.

G. Any person convicted of a speeding violation pursuant to subsection B or F of this section shall be punished by a fine as follows:

1. One to ten miles per hour over the limit..... $10.00
2. Eleven to fifteen miles per hour over the limit..... $20.00
3. Sixteen to twenty miles per hour over the limit..... $35.00
4. Twenty-one to twenty-five miles per hour over the limit..... $75.00
5. Twenty-six to thirty miles per hour over the limit..... $135.00
6. Thirty-one to thirty-five miles per hour over the limit..... $155.00

7. Thirty-six miles per hour or more over the limit..... $205.00

or by imprisonment for not more than ten (10) days; for a second conviction within one (1) year after the first conviction, by imprisonment for not more than twenty (20) days; and upon a third or subsequent conviction within one (1) year after the first conviction, by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, Section 11-806, is amended to read as follows:

Section 11-806. A. No person shall drive a vehicle over any bridge or other elevated structure constituting a part of a highway at a speed which is greater than the maximum speed which can be maintained with safety to the bridge or structure, when the structure is signposted as provided in this section.

B. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation and local authorities may conduct an investigation of any bridge or other elevated structure constituting a part of a highway, and if they shall thereupon find that the structure cannot, with safety to itself, withstand vehicles driving at speeds otherwise permissible under ~~this act~~ Section 1-101 et seq. of this title, they shall determine and declare the maximum speed of vehicles which the structure can safely withstand, and may cause and permit suitable

signs stating the maximum speed to be erected and maintained at a distance of one hundred feet before each end of the structure.

C. Where any state or federal highway or turnpike shall be under construction, maintenance, or repair or when a detour shall have been designated by reason of construction, maintenance, or repairs in progress and a maximum safe, careful, and prudent speed shall have been determined by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation on the highway or highway detour or by the Oklahoma Transportation Authority on the turnpike or turnpike detour during the period of the construction, maintenance, or repairs and shall have plainly posted <u>by changeable message or other appropriate sign</u> at each terminus thereof and at not less than each half mile along the route thereof the determined maximum speed, no person shall drive any vehicle upon the portion of the highway or the highway detour or upon the portion of the turnpike or the turnpike detour at a speed in excess of the speed so determined and posted. Violation of the posted speed limit in the repair, maintenance, or construction zone shall result in the doubling of the appropriate fine. For purposes of this section, "repair, maintenance, or construction zone" means any location where repair, maintenance, or construction work is actually in progress and workers present.

D. <u>The Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority may post, by changeable message sign or other appropriate sign, a temporary reduced speed limit for special</u>

hazards with respect to pedestrians, other traffic, an accident, by reason of weather or when other hazardous highway conditions exist.

E. Upon the trial of any person charged with a violation of this section, proof of the determination of the maximum speed by the Department of Transportation or by the Oklahoma Transportation Authority and the existence of the signs shall constitute conclusive evidence of the maximum speed which can be maintained with safety as provided in subsections B ~~and~~, C and D of this section.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2015.

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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