



Legislative
Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 20-1178

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number:	LLS 20-0943	Date:	February 11, 2020
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Holtorf Sen. Sonnenberg	Bill Status:	House Trans. & Local Govt.
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Bill Topic: **INCREASE SPEED LIMIT ON CERTAIN RURAL HIGHWAYS**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill requires the Department of Transportation to identify and increase the speed limit on portions of rural state highways when the increase would not endanger public safety. The bill increases state workload beginning in FY 2020-21.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires the Department of Transportation (CDOT) to conduct a study in 2020, and every five years thereafter, to identify portions of rural state highways where the speed limit can be raised to 70 miles per hour without endangering public safety. The study must consider the following:

- whether the portion of highway is predominantly straight;
- the quality of the highway surface;
- the amount of shoulder space on the highway; and
- any other safety concerns CDOT deems necessary to include.

CDOT must submit a report by January 1, 2021, and every five years thereafter, to the transportation committees of the General Assembly, which summarizes the study's conclusions and identifies portions of highway where CDOT will increase the speed limit to 70 miles per hour effective January 1 of that year.

Background

CDOT is primarily funded from the State Highway Fund (SHF), which is comprised of federal funds, the state's share of the Highway Users Tax Fund, and other various sources of revenue. The decision-making authority for the majority of state transportation revenue rests with the Transportation Commission, which is responsible for allocating funds from the SHF.

State Expenditures

Beginning in FY 2020-21, the bill will increase workload in CDOT to complete the study of rural highways and determine portions of rural highways where the speed limit can safely be increased to 70 miles per hour. This increase in workload can be accomplished within existing resources.

For any portions of rural state highway identified in the report, CDOT must conduct additional traffic investigations as specified in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways. The traffic investigations examine the actual speed of traffic on the roadway, existing roadway conditions, observed crash history, and other environmental factors. The additional traffic investigations will increase CDOT expenditures from the SHF, but the increase in expenditures will depend on which sections of rural highways are identified for increased speed limits. Funding from the SHF is allocated by the Transportation Commission. The commission will adjust spending from the SHF to accommodate the increase in CDOT expenditures under this bill.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2020, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2020, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Public Safety

Information Technology
Transportation

Municipalities