

SUBJECT: Authorizing municipalities to lower the prima facie speed limit

COMMITTEE: Transportation — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 12 ayes — Canales, Raney, Ashby, Davis, Gámez, Caroline Harris,
Lozano, Lujan, Ordaz, Patterson, Perez, Romero

0 nays

1 absent — Landgraf

SENATE VOTE: On final passage (April 17) — 23 - 8

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: Transportation Code sec. 545.356(b-1) authorizes the governing body of a municipality to lower the speed limit for a road in the municipality that is not an officially designated or marked highway or road of the state highway system to a speed of no less than 25 miles per hour if the body determines that the prima facie speed limit on the road is unreasonable or unsafe.

Concerns have been raised that current speed limits within residential communities may be unsafe, especially for children.

DIGEST: SB 1663 would revise Transportation Code sec. 545.356(b-1) to lower from 25 to 20 miles per hour the minimum speed limit a municipality could establish for roads that were not part of the state highway system.

If the street was located in a residence district, the municipality would not be required to perform an engineering or traffic investigation in order to lower the speed limit.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.