

By: Ogden

S.B. No. 662

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to speed limits on certain highways.

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

SECTION 1. Section 545.352(b), Transportation Code, as amended by Chapters 663, 739, and 1346, Acts of the 76th Legislature, Regular Session, 1999, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(b) Unless a special hazard exists that requires a slower speed for compliance with Section 545.351(b), the following speeds are lawful:

(1) 30 miles per hour in an urban district on a street other than an alley and 15 miles per hour in an alley;

(2) 70 miles per hour in daytime and 65 miles per hour in nighttime if the vehicle is on a highway numbered by this state or the United States outside an urban district, including a farm-to-market or ranch-to-market road, except as provided by Subdivision (4);

(3) 60 miles per hour in daytime and 55 miles per hour in nighttime if the vehicle is on a highway that is outside an urban district and:

(A) the highway is not a highway numbered by this state or the United States; or

(B) the highway does not have a paved surface more than 22 feet wide and does not have an improved shoulder on

1 both sides of the highway, except that this paragraph does not apply
2 to a part of a highway that narrows to a paved surface 22 feet wide
3 or less or does not have an improved shoulder on both sides of the
4 highway solely due to the highway crossing a bridge, overpass, or
5 similar structure;

6 (4) outside an urban district:

7 (A) 60 miles per hour if the vehicle is a school
8 bus that has passed a commercial motor vehicle inspection under
9 Section 548.201 and is on a highway numbered by the United States or
10 this state, including a farm-to-market road;

11 (B) 50 miles per hour if the vehicle is a school
12 bus that:

13 (i) has not passed a commercial motor
14 vehicle inspection under Section 548.201; or

15 (ii) is traveling on a highway not numbered
16 by the United States or this state; or

17 (C) 60 miles per hour in daytime and 55 miles per
18 hour in nighttime if:

19 (i) the vehicle is a truck, other than a
20 light truck, or ~~if~~ the vehicle is a truck tractor, trailer, or
21 semitrailer; and

22 (ii) the vehicle is on a farm-to-market or
23 ranch-to-market road;

24 (5) on a beach, 15 miles per hour; or

25 (6) on a county road adjacent to a public beach, 15
26 miles per hour, if declared by the commissioners court of the
27 county.

1 SECTION 2. Section 545.353(d), Transportation Code, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 (d) Except as provided by Subsection (h), the commission may
4 not:

5 (1) modify the rules established by Section
6 545.351(b);

7 (2) establish a speed limit of more than 70 miles per
8 hour; or

9 (3) increase the speed limit for a vehicle described
10 by Section 545.352(b)(4) [~~545.352(b)(5)~~].

11 SECTION 3. Section 548.201(b), Transportation Code, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 (b) A program under this section also applies to any:

14 (1) vehicle or combination of vehicles with a gross
15 weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds that is operated in
16 interstate commerce and registered in this state;

17 (2) school activity bus, as defined in Section
18 541.201, that has a gross weight, registered weight, or gross
19 weight rating of more than 26,000 pounds, or is designed to
20 transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver; and

21 (3) school bus that will operate at a speed authorized
22 by Section 545.352(b)(4)(A) [~~545.352(b)(5)(A)~~].

23 SECTION 4. (a) The change in law made by this Act applies
24 only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this
25 Act. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before
26 the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense
27 occurred before that date.

1 (b) An offense committed before the effective date of this
2 Act is covered by the law in effect when the offense was committed,
3 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

4 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.