

1-1 By: Pickett (Senate Sponsor - Watson) H.B. No. 2204  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2013;  
1-3 May 7, 2013, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Transportation; May 17, 2013, reported adversely, with favorable  
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0;  
1-6 May 17, 2013, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-8	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Nichols	X		
1-10	Paxton		X	
1-11	Campbell	X		
1-12	Davis	X		
1-13	Ellis	X		
1-14	Hancock	X		
1-15	Patrick	X		
1-16	Uresti	X		
1-17	Watson	X		

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2204 By: Watson

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the establishment of a variable speed limit pilot  
1-22 program by the Texas Transportation Commission.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

1-25 (1) "Commission" means the Texas Transportation  
1-26 Commission.

1-27 (2) "Department" means the Texas Department of  
1-28 Transportation.

1-29 SECTION 2. VARIABLE SPEED LIMIT PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The  
1-30 commission by rule shall establish and the department shall  
1-31 implement a variable speed limit pilot program to study the  
1-32 effectiveness of temporarily lowering prima facie speed limits to  
1-33 address inclement weather, congestion, road construction, or any  
1-34 other condition that affects the safe and orderly movement of  
1-35 traffic on a roadway. Notice of a speed limit established under the  
1-36 pilot program may be displayed using a stationary or portable  
1-37 changeable message sign, as defined by Section 544.013,  
1-38 Transportation Code.

1-39 (b) The commission shall select up to three locations to  
1-40 test the pilot program.

1-41 (c) The commission shall inform the Department of Public  
1-42 Safety and any affected local law enforcement agency about the  
1-43 pilot program and the locations that are being used to test the  
1-44 pilot program.

1-45 (d) A speed limit that is established under the pilot  
1-46 program:

1-47 (1) must be based on an engineering and traffic  
1-48 investigation;

1-49 (2) may be effective for all or a designated portion of  
1-50 the highway and may be effective for any period of the day or night,  
1-51 as the department determines necessary; and

1-52 (3) is effective only when the speed limit is posted  
1-53 and only if a sign notifying motorists of the change in speed limit  
1-54 is posted not less than 500 feet but not more than 1,000 feet before  
1-55 the point at which the speed limit begins.

1-56 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than December 31, 2014, the  
1-57 commission shall submit a report to the legislature that includes  
1-58 information about the pilot program, the results of the pilot  
1-59 program, and any recommendations for statutory changes based on the  
1-60 results of the pilot program.

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