

House Bill 2204
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 1. Section 545.353, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsection (k) to read as follows:

(k) The commission by rule may establish a variable speed limit program to allow the temporary lowering of a prima facie speed limit to address inclement weather, congestion, road construction, or any other condition that affects the safe and orderly movement of traffic on a roadway for which the commission has the authority to establish a speed limit. Notice of a speed limit established under the program may be displayed using a stationary or portable changeable message sign, as defined by Section 544.013.

A speed limit that is established under the program:

- (1) must be based on an engineering and traffic investigation;
- (2) may be effective for all or a designated portion of the highway and may be effective for any period of the day or night, as the department determines necessary; and
- (3) is effective only when the speed limit is posted and only if a sign notifying motorists of the change in speed limit is posted not less than 500 feet but not more than 1,000 feet

SENATE VERSION (CS)

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

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

SECTION 2. VARIABLE SPEED LIMIT PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) The commission by rule shall establish and the department shall implement a variable speed limit pilot program to study the effectiveness of temporarily lowering prima facie speed limits to address inclement weather, congestion, road construction, or any other condition that affects the safe and orderly movement of traffic on a roadway. Notice of a speed limit established under the pilot program may be displayed using a stationary or portable changeable message sign, as defined by Section 544.013, Transportation Code.

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

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

(d) A speed limit that is established under the pilot program:

- (1) must be based on an engineering and traffic investigation;
- (2) may be effective for all or a designated portion of the highway and may be effective for any period of the day or night, as the department determines necessary; and
- (3) is effective only when the speed limit is posted and only if a sign notifying motorists of the change in speed limit is posted not less than 500 feet but not more than 1,000 feet

CONFERENCE

House Bill 2204
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION	SENATE VERSION (CS)	CONFERENCE
<u>before the point at which the speed limit begins.</u>	before the point at which the speed limit begins.	
No equivalent provision.	SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than December 31, 2014, the commission shall submit a report to the legislature that includes information about the pilot program, the results of the pilot program, and any recommendations for statutory changes based on the results of the pilot program.	
No equivalent provision.	SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. This Act expires February 1, 2015.	
SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.	SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.	