

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Transportation  
For HB 1885

Compiled on: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 1:31 PM

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Hearing Date: March 22, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Bernice Messina-Gates, Mrs  
self, retired  
Fate, TX

I oppose HB1885. Most people slow down to adjust to weather conditions without TxDOT needing to put up signs. There's also construction speed zones already established in most areas with road construction. So why is TxDOT constantly seeking this new power to change speed limits on the fly?

This could allow 'temporary' lower speeds in construction zones to effectively become permanent as many are abandoned for weeks if not months at a time with no work being done. We've seen it go on for years, literally. This bill has no time requirements for these 'temporary' speed changes to end or be lifted, so it could be abused to intentionally slow traffic for an indefinite period of time. Can you say a set-up for speed traps? Please vote against HB1885 for these reasons. Thank you.

Lance Hamm, CDR, USNR (Ret.)

Vision Zero South Texas / Self / Commercial Airline Pilot

Kingsville, TX

Respectfully request that HB 1885, as written, be amended to fully allow all stakeholders of the Texas roadway transportation system to fully understand the intent of HB 1885.

If the intent of HB 1885 is to allow the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) to use variable speed limits to lower the prima facie speed limit by 10 mph or greater (as written in paragraph (k)(3), "may not be less than 10 miles per hour below the prima facie speed limit"), then that may be impossible because, I believe, TxDOT only uses the 85th Percentile Rule for setting speed limits in their "engineering and traffic investigations" (paragraph (k)(1) of HB 1885) and it is my understanding that this method for setting speed limits only allows plus or minus 5 mph deviation from the prima facie speed limit.

If the intent of HB 1885 is to allow the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) to use variable speed limits to lower the prima facie speed limit by 10 mph or less, then paragraph (k)(3) is misworded and should be amended to read, "may not be more than 10 miles per hour below the prima facie speed limit."

In my opinion, any variable speed limit that lowers the current speed limit by 10 mph or less will have little effect on drivers changing their vehicle speed and little effect on traffic safety during "inclement weather, congestion, road construction, or any other condition that affects the safe and orderly movement of traffic."

I respectfully request that HB 1885 be changed to read,

"(k)(1) need not be based on an engineering and traffic investigation during times of inclement weather, congestion, road construction, or any other condition that affects the safe and orderly movement of traffic;"

This change will allow variable speed limits greater than 10 mph and the variable speed limits will not be restricted to plus or minus 5 mph by TxDOT's use of the 85th Percentile Rule, because the 85th Percentile Rule does account for changing hazardous roadway conditions relating to "inclement weather, congestion, road construction, or any other condition that affects the safe and orderly movement of traffic."

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Respectfully, Lance Hamm

Sylvia Coulson

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I strongly oppose this bill.

Molly Cook

Stop TxDOT I-45

Houston, TX

Stop TxDOT I-45 is a grassroots transportation advocacy organization from Houston. We support the use of variable speed limit signs, but we would suggest dropping the 3rd item from subsection (k). It may be necessary to drop speed limits more than 10mph in the event of construction or inclement weather. Variable speed limits are shown to be effective, they are supported by TxDOT engineers, and they increase compliance. We fully support Rep Canales's HB 1639, and we would support HB 1885 if the 10mph restriction were dropped. Thank y'all!

Terry Putnam

self/retired

Georgetown, TX

I oppose this bill. Don't mess with the speed limits.

Wilma.J. Putnam  
American Citizen  
Georgetown, TX

I oppose this bill. It could be used to intentionally slow traffic for an indefinite period of time and could be used to set up speed traps.

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Angela Smith  
Fredericksburg Tea Party, Self  
Fredericksburg, TX

We are AGAINST this bill. Thank you.

Angela Smith  
Fredericksburg Tea Party, Self  
Fredericksburg, TX

We are AGAINST this bill.

Michael Burdick, Pastor  
self  
Fredericksburg, TX

I oppose this bill to change the speed limit.

Sally Fiveash  
self  
Carrollton, TX

I oppose this bill because, once again, it is trying to legislate common sense in an area where we don't need more rules. There are already provisions to modify the speed limit in construction areas, and people in general will adjust their driving speeds for other conditions that are less than optimal - they have self interest, so are going to do this, generally, if called for. One more case where the government seems to want to be able to dictate our behavior "for the good of others" and that opens the door for abuse by the government to take away/reduce our ability to think for ourselves and make decisions on our own that make sense for the situation at hand.