

House Bill 1315
House Transportation Committee
Representative Ruby, Chairman
February 4, 2021

Chairman Ruby and members of the House Transportation Committee, my name is Sergeant Wade Kadrmas and I am the Safety and Education Officer for the North Dakota Highway Patrol. I am here on behalf of the highway patrol to provide neutral testimony on HB 1315.

In 2003, the 58th Legislative Assembly raised the speed limit on the interstate from 70 to 75 mph. At that time, the Legislative Assembly also set the fine schedule at \$5 for every mile per hour over the speed limit in zones greater than 65 mph, which is the current fee schedule for the interstate system.

This committee recently heard and amended HB 1279 which would standardize speeding fines. The amendment would reduce the fine for speeding on roads with speed limits greater than 65 mph, which includes the interstate. The fine would change from \$5 for every mph over to \$2 for every mph over, for the first 10 and then adjust to \$20 plus \$5 for every mph over, starting at 11. If this occurred, the highway patrol would have concerns with HB 1315 increasing the speed limit to 80 since the possibility exists that fines could decrease on the interstate. This would be opposite to what the 58th Legislative Assembly did when it increased the speed limit to 75 and increased fines to \$5 for every mph over. If penalties remain at the current level or increase for the interstate, the patrol would have less concern with HB 1315, especially if the 40-mph minimum speed limit is incorporated to help counter the dangers of varying speeds.

While the vast majority of drivers follow the speed limit, we are all aware of those drivers who will continue to push the envelope. They will take the increase to 80 and the decrease in penalties as a sign it is acceptable to go 5 to 10 mph over the limit, or even greater. It is important that all motorists feel safe as they travel on our roads and it is the highway patrol's job to discourage speeding motorists by enforcing the speed limits.

Chairman Ruby that concludes my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions.