

House Bill 1279
Senate Transportation Committee
Senator Clemens, Chairman

Chairman Clemens and members of the Senate 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 today on behalf of the highway patrol to provide neutral testimony on House Bill 1279.

North Dakota's Vision Zero initiative calls for policies that help deter driving behaviors that lead to serious injury and fatality crashes. Speed fines do play a part in deterring this type of dangerous driving behavior. Reduced speed fines will not deter excessive speeding, especially when no other policy is implemented to replace the fine reduction.

I provided a map that NDDOT created which shows roads across the state and the assigned speed zones. DOT also provided the annual vehicle miles traveled in 2019 for each of these zones. The data shows our most heavily traveled zone has the lowest speeding deterrent. The combined traffic in the other two zones is similar to the 55 and less zones. These two zones each have different speeding deterrents. In 2019 the state experienced 22 speed-related fatalities. Sixteen of these were on roads with a speed limit of 55 mph and less, 5 happened on roads with a speed limit greater than 55 mph and less than 70 mph and 1 occurred in a 70 mph and greater zone. I wish I could stand here and say that less speed related fatalities happened in the 70 mph and greater zones because of the deterrent in place for speeding but its not that simple. We also have to take into consideration the type of roadways and traffic congestion as well. Fines are only a small part of addressing speed related injuries and fatalities.

The mission of the North Dakota Highway Patrol is to make a difference everyday by providing high quality law enforcement services to keep North Dakota safe and secure. If a driver chooses to speed, the danger to themselves and others is increased. Our officers work hard each and every day to deter these unsafe driving behaviors.

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