

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6972
BILL NUMBER: SB 267

DATE PREPARED: Feb 2, 1999
BILL AMENDED: Feb 2, 1999

SUBJECT: Traffic laws.

FISCAL ANALYST: James Sperlik
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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill raises from 65 miles per hour to 70 miles per hour the speed limit for a motor vehicle weighing 26,000 pounds or less operated on an interstate highway located outside an urban area. It makes it a Class C infraction for a vehicle operated at less than the posted speed limit to be driven continuously in the left lane on a laned roadway if it impedes the flow of other traffic. This applies only to a vehicle operated on a highway outside of an urban area. It requires a person who drives a vehicle in the left lane that impedes the flow of traffic to move the vehicle to the right lane when the movement can be made with safety. The bill makes it a Class C infraction to operate a truck while a person less than 18 years of age is in the open bed of the truck. It makes exceptions for parades, certain farm operations, and certain trucks equipped with seat belts.

Effective Date: July 1, 1999.

Explanation of State Expenditures: For the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), there will be a cost to erect the new speed limit signs. There will be 265 new signs. The cost per sign is estimated at \$66, which includes labor, material, and installation. The total cost is estimated at \$17,490 This cost can be absorbed within the current INDOT budget. The fund affected is the State Highway Fund.

Explanation of State Revenues: If additional court cases occur, revenue to the state General Fund may increase if infraction judgments and court fees are collected. The maximum judgment for a Class C infraction is \$500 which is deposited in the state General Fund. If court actions are filed and a judgment is entered, a court fee of \$70 would be assessed. 70% of the court fee would be deposited in the state General Fund if the case is filed in a court of record or 55% if the case is filed in a city or town court.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues: If additional court actions are filed and a judgment is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: (1) The county general fund would receive

27% of the \$70 court fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of court fees. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 20% of the court fee would be deposited in the county general fund and 25% would be deposited in the city or town general fund.(2) A \$3 fee would be assessed, and if collected would be deposited into the county law enforcement continuing education fund. (3) A \$2 jury fee is assessed, and if collected, would be deposited into the county user fee fund to supplement the compensation of jury members.

State Agencies Affected: Department of Transportation

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: Phil Schermerhorn, Deputy Commissioner of INDOT, 232-5518.