

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013**

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**SENATE BILL 709
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/26/13**

Short Title: DOT Study 75 mph Speed/Develop Pilot Proposal.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 4, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT A
3 STUDY OF INCREASING THE SPEED LIMIT ON UP TO FOUR CONTROLLED
4 ACCESS HIGHWAYS TO SEVENTY-FIVE MILES PER HOUR, DEVELOP A PILOT
5 PROGRAM PROPOSAL, AND REPORT TO THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE
6 TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE BY JANUARY 31, 2014.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** DOT 75 MPH speed limit study and pilot program proposal. – The
9 Department of Transportation shall study and evaluate pilot implementation of a maximum
10 speed limit of 75 miles per hour on up to four controlled access highways within the State.

11 **SECTION 2.** Required areas of study. – As a part of its study and evaluation of the
12 75 mile per hour speed limit, and the development of a pilot implementation proposal, the
13 Department shall include the following:

- 14 (1) Any segment selected by the Department for study shall have an existing
15 crash rate below the statewide average and have an existing speed limit of 70
16 miles per hour.
- 17 (2) The Department shall conduct an engineering and traffic study on each
18 segment to determine whether a speed limit of 75 miles per hour is
19 reasonable and safe for the conditions found to exist on the segments.
- 20 (3) The Department shall evaluate the effect of a higher speed limit on highway
21 safety, whether the segments studied meet engineering standards necessary
22 for a higher speed limit, the effect of different speed limits during day and
23 nighttime, the experience with higher speed limits in other states, the need
24 for additional driver safety education, including instruction on driving on the
25 right lane on multilane facilities, and the need for changes to State law
26 concerning use of the left lane for passing on multilane facilities.
- 27 (4) The Department shall evaluate the effect of a 75 miles per hour speed limit
28 on motor vehicle insurance rates.
- 29 (5) The Department shall analyze the effect of a 75 miles per hour speed limit
30 on the current State penalty structure for speeding and possible revisions to
31 that structure.

32 **SECTION 3.** Report to Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee. –
33 On or before January 31, 2014, the Department shall report to the Joint Legislative
34 Transportation Oversight Committee its findings and recommendations. The report shall
35 include a proposal for a pilot program for a 75 miles per hour speed limit on up to four
36 identified segments of controlled access highways in the State.



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SECTION 4. This act is effective when it becomes law.