

# HB638 INTRODUCED



1 HB638  
2 11M67ZZ-1  
3 By Representative Nelson  
4 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security  
5 First Read: 19-Mar-26



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, a municipality may only enforce speed limits within the corporate limits of the municipality.

This bill would extend municipal enforcement of speed limits to the municipality's police jurisdiction.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to speed limits; to amend Section 32-5A-171, Code of Alabama 1975, to expand the authority of municipal law enforcement officers to enforce speed limits within both the corporate limits and police jurisdiction of the municipality.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 32-5A-171, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§32-5A-171

Except when a special hazard exists that requires lower speed for compliance with Section 32-5A-170, the limits hereinafter specified or established as hereinafter authorized shall be maximum lawful speeds, and no person shall drive a vehicle at a speed in excess of the maximum limits.



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29 (1) No person shall operate a vehicle in excess of 30  
30 miles per hour in any urban district.

31 (2)a. No person shall operate a motor vehicle in excess  
32 of 35 miles per hour on any unpaved road. For purposes of this  
33 chapter the term "unpaved road" shall mean any highway under  
34 the jurisdiction of any county, the surface of which consists  
35 of natural earth, mixed soil, stabilized soil, aggregate,  
36 crushed sea shells, or similar materials without the use of  
37 asphalt, cement, or similar binders.

38 b. No person shall operate a motor vehicle on any  
39 county-maintained paved road in an unincorporated area of the  
40 state at a speed in excess of 45 miles per hour unless a  
41 different maximum speed is established under authority granted  
42 in subdivision (6) or as provided in subdivision (7) subject  
43 to the maximum rate of speed provided in subdivision (3).

44 (3) No person shall operate a motor vehicle on the  
45 highways in this state, other than interstate highways or  
46 highways having four or more traffic lanes, at a speed in  
47 excess of 55 miles per hour at any time unless a different  
48 maximum rate of speed is authorized by the Governor under  
49 authority granted in subdivision (6) or as provided in  
50 subdivision (7).

51 (4) No person shall operate a motor vehicle, on an  
52 interstate highway within the State of Alabama, at a speed in  
53 excess of 70 miles per hour or on any other highway having  
54 four or more traffic lanes at a speed in excess of 65 miles  
55 per hour, unless a different maximum rate of speed is  
56 authorized by the Governor under authority granted in



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57 subdivision (6) or as provided in subdivision (7).  
58 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subdivision, any  
59 portion of Corridor X/I-22 which is open between the  
60 Alabama/Mississippi state line and the Jefferson County line  
61 shall be considered an interstate highway for the purpose of  
62 the maximum speed limit on the highway.

63 (5) Notwithstanding any provisions of this section to  
64 the contrary, no person shall operate a passenger vehicle,  
65 motor truck, or passenger bus which carries or transports  
66 explosives or flammable liquids, as defined in Section  
67 32-1-1.1, or hazardous wastes, as defined in Section  
68 22-30-3(5), in this state unless the vehicle, truck, or bus  
69 prominently displays a current decal, plate, or placard which  
70 is required by the rules or regulations of the DOT or the PSC  
71 which indicates or warns that the vehicle, truck, or bus is  
72 carrying or transporting the substances. No person shall  
73 operate the vehicle, truck, or bus at a rate of speed greater  
74 than 55 miles per hour at any time unless a different maximum  
75 rate of speed is authorized by the Governor under authority  
76 granted in subdivision (6) or as provided in subdivision (7).

77 (6) The Governor may prescribe the maximum rate of  
78 speed whenever a different rate of speed is required by  
79 federal law in order for Alabama to receive federal funds for  
80 highway maintenance and construction.

81 (7) The maximum speed limits set forth in this section  
82 may be altered as authorized in Sections 32-5A-172 and  
83 32-5A-173.

84 (8) A law enforcement officer or a peace officer of any



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85 incorporated municipality or town which has less than 19,000  
86 inhabitants according to the most recent federal decennial  
87 census shall not enforce this section on any interstate  
88 highway.

89 (9) Any speed limit set pursuant to this section shall  
90 be enforced by any municipality or any law enforcement officer  
91 of a municipality ~~only~~ within both the corporate limits ~~of the~~  
92 ~~municipality~~ and ~~not within~~ the police jurisdiction of the  
93 municipality."

94 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
95 1, 2026.