

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**ENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 20-0943.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

**HOUSE BILL 20-1178**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Holtorf,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Sonnenberg,**

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**House Committees**

Transportation & Local Government

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING INCREASING THE SPEED LIMIT ON RURAL STATE**  
102 **HIGHWAYS WHERE IT IS SAFE TO DO SO, AND, IN CONNECTION**  
103 **THEREWITH, DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
104 **TO IDENTIFY THESE HIGHWAYS.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill requires the department of transportation to perform a study of state highways in rural areas of the state in 2020 and every 5 years thereafter for the purpose of identifying portions of rural state

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
February 27, 2020

highways where the speed limit can be raised to 70 miles per hour without endangering public safety. On or before January 1, 2021, and every 5 years thereafter, the department shall complete its study and:

- ! Submit a report to committees of reference of the general assembly; and
- ! Increase the speed limit to 70 miles per hour for each portion of rural state highway that is identified by the study.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 42-4-1102, **add** (3.5)  
3 as follows:

4 **42-4-1102. Altering of speed limits - department to study rural**  
5 **state highways and increase speed limits - definitions - repeal.**

6 (3.5) (a) THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, REFERRED TO IN THIS  
7 SUBSECTION (3.5) AS THE "DEPARTMENT", SHALL STUDY RELEVANT AND  
8 APPROPRIATE STATE HIGHWAYS IN RURAL AREAS OF THE STATE FOR THE  
9 PURPOSE OF IDENTIFYING PORTIONS OF RURAL STATE HIGHWAYS WHERE  
10 THE SPEED LIMIT CAN BE RAISED AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 42-4-1101  
11 WITHOUT ENDANGERING PUBLIC SAFETY. IN IDENTIFYING THESE PORTIONS  
12 OF RURAL STATE HIGHWAYS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSIDER:

13 (I) WHETHER THE PORTION OF HIGHWAY IS PREDOMINANTLY  
14 STRAIGHT;

15 (II) THE QUALITY OF THE SURFACE OF THE PORTION OF HIGHWAY,  
16 INCLUDING WHETHER THE PORTION OF HIGHWAY HAS BEEN RESURFACED  
17 RECENTLY;

18 (III) THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF ADEQUATE SPACE ALONG  
19 BOTH SIDES OF THE PORTION OF HIGHWAY TO ALLOW A VEHICLE TO SAFELY  
20 PULL OVER TO THE SIDE OF THE HIGHWAY; AND

21 (IV) ANY OTHER SAFETY CONCERNS THAT THE DEPARTMENT, IN

1 ITS DISCRETION, INCLUDES IN THE REPORT.

2 (b) IN IDENTIFYING PORTIONS OF RURAL STATE HIGHWAYS WHERE  
3 THE SPEED LIMIT CAN BE RAISED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3.5)(a) OF  
4 THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL GIVE PREFERENCE TO PORTIONS OF  
5 RURAL STATE HIGHWAYS THAT:

6 (I) CONNECT RURAL TOWNS TO ONE OR MORE CITIES;

7 (II) PROVIDE ACCESS TO ONE OR MORE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE  
8 SCHOOLS; AND

9 (III) ARE RELATIVELY HEAVILY TRAVELED.

10 (c) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2021, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
11 COMPLETE THE STUDY DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (3.5)(a) OF THIS  
12 SECTION. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE A SUMMARY OF THE STUDY IN  
13 THE DEPARTMENT'S NEXT ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE  
14 COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203. THE  
15 SUMMARY MUST INDICATE THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY AND THE  
16 PORTIONS OF RURAL HIGHWAYS FOR WHICH THE DEPARTMENT WILL  
17 INCREASE THE SPEED LIMIT.

18 (d) THIS SUBSECTION (3.5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022.

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20 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
21 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
22 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
23 5, 2020, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2020); except that, if a  
24 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
25 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
26 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
27 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

- 1 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.