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# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 304

Revision Date _____	Dept. Affected <u>DOT&amp;PF</u>
Title <u>An Act relating to regulations of highways and motor vehicles; &amp; providing for an effective date</u>	BRU <u>Office of the Commissioner</u>
Sponsor <u>Senator Donley</u>	Component <u>Commissioner's Office</u>
Requester <u>Senate Transportation</u>	Component Serial No. <u>530</u>

**Expenditures/Revenues**

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
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**FUND SOURCE**

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY98) cost: 0.0

**POSITIONS**

Full-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by Dennis Poshard  
 Division Office of the Commissioner  
 Approved by: Joseph L. Perkins, Commissioner  
 Agency Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Phone 465-3904  
 Date 2/23/98  
 Date 2/23/98

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# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB 304

Revision Date _____	Dept. Affected <u>DOT&amp;PF</u>
Title <u>Regulation of Motor Vehicles &amp; Highways</u>	BRU <u>Office of the Commissioner</u>
Sponsor <u>Donley</u>	Component <u>Office of the Commissioner</u>
Requester <u>SUB STRA</u>	Component Serial No. <u>530</u>

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other (Specify Type)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (=FY98) cost: 0.0

**POSITIONS**

Full-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0

**ANALYSIS:** *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

Prepared by Dennis Poshard, Special Assistant  
 Division Commissioners Office  
 Approved by *[Signature]* Commissioner  
 Agency Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Phone 465-3900  
 Date 3/20/98  
 Date 3/20/98

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**CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 304( )**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY**

**Offered:**  
**Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): SENATOR DONLEY**

**A BILL**  
**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to regulation of highways and motor vehicles; and providing for  
2 an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 \* **Section 1.** AS 28.05.151 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (d) The supreme court, in establishing scheduled amounts of bail under this  
6 section, and each municipality that establishes or has established a fine schedule under  
7 this section shall provide that the scheduled amount of bail or fine, as applicable, for  
8 a motor vehicle or traffic offense that is committed in a highway work zone shall be  
9 double the amount of the bail or fine for the offense if it had not been committed in  
10 a highway work zone.

11 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 28.35 is amended by adding a new section to read:

12 **Sec. 28.35.165. Operation of vehicle on state highways or vehicular ways**  
13 **or areas.** (a) A person operating a motor vehicle on a divided highway with at least  
14 two traffic lanes on each side may not drive in the far left lane unless the person is

1           overtaking another vehicle, the person is making a left turn from the divided highway,  
2           or traffic or road conditions require driving in the left lane.

3                   (b) A person who violates this section is subject to a fine of up to \$50.

4       \* Sec. 3. AS 28.40 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5                   **Sec. 28.40.070. Fines for offenses committed within highway work zones**  
6           **doubled.** Whenever a person violates a provision of this title or a regulation adopted  
7           under the authority of this title within a highway work zone, notwithstanding the  
8           amount of the fine or the maximum fine set under this title, the fine, or maximum fine,  
9           is double the amount provided in this title.

10       \* Sec. 4. AS 28.40.100(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

11                   (25) "highway work zone" means an area identified by advance signing  
12           where road construction, repair, or maintenance work is being done on or adjacent to  
13           a highway, whether or not work is actually being done at that time.

14       \* Sec. 5. This Act takes effect June 30, 1999.



## ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS of ALASKA

1415 B STREET • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

TELEPHONE (907) 562-6114 • FAX (907) 562-6114

TELEPHONE (907) 562-6114 • FAX (907) 562-6114

23. Febr. 1998

To  
Senate Transportation Committee  
State Legislature

The Honorable Jerry Ward, Chm.      FAX 465-3766

Subject: SB No. 304, "An Act relating to regulation of highways ..."

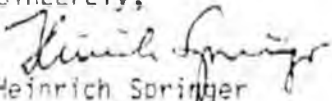
AGC of Alaska, a 600+ member organization serving and representing the construction industry in Alaska supports SB 304.

Our main interest is contained in Section 1.

Traffic safety within construction limits on a highway construction project is of great concern to the owner, contractor and the workers. The legal responsibilities are sometimes obscure and the liability of the various parties in many instances not clearly defined. Enforcement efforts are sporadic and regulations ignored by the travelling public. As a consequence the accident rates in construction zones is too high. Several States have used the "doubling of fines" as a successful means to bring the traffic participants into compliance. Consequently the statistics indicate a safer work environment. Contractors advice the public through signing about the doubling of fines and in most cases achieve a significant reduction in speed and careless operations.

We are confident that implementation of these provisions will benefit all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

  
Heinrich Springer

Exec. Director

FAIRBANKS  
PO BOX 91115 • FAIRBANKS, AK 99709  
• 907-453-1814

SOLDOTNA  
PO BOX 330 • SOLDOTNA, AK 99687  
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**SENATOR DAVE DONLEY**  
**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Senator Jerry Ward  
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee

From: Senator Dave Donley *DD*

Re: Hearing Request for Senate Bill 304 "An Act relating to regulation of highways and motor vehicles."

Date: February 17, 1998

I respectfully request you schedule Senate Bill 304 - "An Act relating to regulation of highways and motor vehicles" for a committee hearing at your earliest convenience.

Senate Bill 304 imposes stricter penalties on those who commit traffic offenses in highway work zones. It creates an infraction for persons driving in the left hand lane for reasons other than dense traffic conditions, for purposes of overtaking & passing another vehicle, or making a left turn. This legislation also doubles the fine of a traffic offense if the offense occurred in a highway work zone.

If you have any questions or need additional information please call myself or James Armstrong of my staff at 465-3892.

DD/jja

January-May: STATE CAPITOL • JUNEAU, AK • 99801-1182 • (907) 465-3892 • FAX: (907) 465-6595  
June-December: 716 W. 4TH AVE. • STE. 430 • ANCHORAGE, AK • 99501 • (907) 258-8181 • FAX: (907) 258-1648

**MEMBER:** Senate Finance Committee • Legislative Budget & Audit Committee  
• Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee



# SENATOR DAVE DONLEY

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## ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

### Sponsor Statement for Senate Bill 304

Senate Bill 304 would double the fines for moving traffic violations in construction zones in an effort to protect highway construction workers. If passed, Alaska would join 26 other states which have increased sanctions for motorists who recklessly endanger the safety of roadway workers.

Work zone accidents and deaths have increased due to motorists speeding in highway construction zones. In 1994, work zone fatalities in the United States climbed to an all-time high when 833 people were killed. Senate Bill 304 imposes stiffer fines on motorists who disregard speeding laws in construction.

Senate Bill 304 amends AS 28.15.221 relating to the driver's "point" system and its application. The "point" system is used to identify habitually reckless or negligent drivers and habitual or frequent violators of traffic laws. Under this system drivers are assessed "points" when convicted of a traffic violation. SB 304 adds the following exemption to the list of violations in which points are not assessed on a driver's record. Drivers who exceed the 55 mile per hour speed limit would not be assessed "points" if;

- a) the violation occurred on a divided highway; and
- b) the vehicle was not exceeding 65 miles per hour; and
- c) the driver was not driving recklessly or negligently.

Senate Bill 304 would also exempt the assessment of points for those traffic citations not issued by a state or city police officer. In both cases tickets could still be issued and fines assessed.

Additionally Senate Bill 304 adds a provision stating that drivers operating a motor vehicle on a divided highway may not drive in the far left lane unless;

- a) the person is overtaking another vehicle; or
- b) the person is making a left turn from the divided highway; or
- c) dense traffic conditions require driving in the left lane.

Encouraging drivers to stay to the right will improve traffic flow and increase the efficiency of divided highways.

DD/jja

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June-December: 716 W. 4TH AVE. • STE. 430 • ANCHORAGE, AK • 99501 • (907) 258-8181 • FAX: (907) 258-1648

MEMBER: Senate Finance Committee • Legislative Budget & Audit Committee  
• Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee

### Summary Table of Special Sanctions for Exceeding the Speed Limit in Either a Construction or School Zone

S T A T E	Sanctions for Speeding in a Construction Zone	Sanctions for Speeding in a School Zone
AK		Six (6) points are assessed on a person's record for exceeding the speed limit in school zone.
AR		1st offense: Jail - 1 to 10 days/fine - \$25 to \$100 2nd offense (within 1 year): Jail - 5 to 25 days/fine - \$50 to \$250 Subsequent offense (within 1 year): Jail -25 days to 6 months/fine - \$250 to \$1,000 3rd offense (within 1 year): License suspension for 1 year.
D (CO)	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <b>double</b> the usual amount.	
D (CT)	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <b>double</b> the usual amount.	
D (FL)	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <b>double</b> the usual amount.	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <b>double</b> the usual amount.
GA	Jail - not more than 12 months/fine - \$100 to \$2,000	
IL	There is a minimum fine of \$150.	There is a minimum fine of \$150.
D (IA)	The fine is <b>double</b> the amount in the fine schedule.	
D (KS)	The fine is <b>double</b> the usual amount.	
D (KY)	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <b>double</b> the usual amount.	
D (MI)	A fine is <b>double</b> that prescribed by law.	Imprisonment for not more than 90 days and a fine that is <b>double</b> that prescribed by law (i.e., not >\$200).
		A surcharge is assessed

U	MN	A surcharge is assessed which equals the fine. However, the surcharge cannot be <\$25.	which equals the fine. However, the surcharge cannot be <\$25.
U	MS	For exceeding the posted speed limit in a "highway work zone," there is a fine of no more than \$250.	
U	MO	For speeding in a construction zone, a person is assessed an additional fine of \$35.	
D	MT	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <b>double</b> the usual amount.	
D	NE	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <b>double</b> the usual amount.	If a speeding offense occurs in a school crossing zone, the designed fine is <b>double</b> the usual amount.
D	NV	There is an <b>additional</b> sanction which is <u>equal</u> to the original sanction imposed for exceeding such limit. Imprisonment sanctions for the original and additional sanctions must run consecutively. However, the combined sanctions cannot exceed 6 months of imprisonment, \$1,000 or 120 hours of community service.	
D	NJ	The fine is <b>double</b> the usual amount.	
U	NY	Exceeding the speed limit 10 MPH: Fine -\$60 to \$100. Exceeding the speed limit >10 MPH but <30MPH: Jail - Not more than 30 days/fine -\$100 to \$120. Exceeding the speed limit >30MPH:Jail - not more than 30 days/fine - \$240 to \$400 For a <u>2nd offense</u> (within 18 months) for any of the above offenses, the fine is increased by \$100. For a <u>subsequent offense</u> (within 18 months) for any of the above offenses, the fine is increased by \$250.	
U	NC	There is a mandatory \$100 fine.	There is a mandatory \$25 fine and 3 points are assessed against a person's driving record.
U	ND	Fee schedule for exceeding the speed limit by 1 to 10 MPH - \$40. Fee schedule for exceeding the speed limit by >10 MPH - \$40 plus \$1 for each MPH over 10 MPH.	
D	OH	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <b>double</b> the usual amount.	
D	PA	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <b>double</b> the usual amount.	Exceeding the speed limit in a school zone - \$35 plus \$2 for every MPH in excess of 5 MPH.
D	SD	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <b>double</b> the usual amount.	

0 TN	<p>For speeding in a construction zone, a person is subject to a fine from \$250 (mandatory) to \$500.</p> <p>The following points have been assigned for speeding in a construction zone: Speeding violations where the vehicle's speed was not noted on the citation - <b>3 points</b>; exceeding the speed limit 1 through 5 MPH - <b>2 points</b>; exceeding the speed limit 6 through 15 MPH - <b>6 points</b>; exceeding the speed limit 16 through 35 MPH - <b>7 points</b>; and, exceeding the speed limit by 36 or more MPH - <b>8 points</b>.</p> <p>The following points have been assigned for speeding in a construction zone by a commercial vehicle: Speeding violations where the vehicle's speed was not noted on the citation - <b>4 points</b>; exceeding the speed limit 1 through 5 MPH - <b>2 points</b>; and, exceeding the speed limit 6 through 14 MPH - <b>5 points</b>.</p>	
D TX	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the minimum and maximum fines are <b>doubled</b> .	
0 VA	The fine for exceeding the speed limit in a construction zone is not more than \$250.	The fine for exceeding the speed limit in a school crossing zone is not more than \$250.
WA		There is a mandatory fine for exceeding the speed limit in a school zone which is <b>double</b> the normal amount.
WV		<u>1st or subsequent offense</u> : Fine - \$100 to \$500 <u>Subsequent offense (within 2 years)</u> : Jail - not more than 6 months.
D WI	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <b>double</b> the usual amount.	<u>1st offense</u> : Fine - \$40 to \$300 <u>Subsequent offense</u> : Fine - \$80 to \$600.

**SUMMARY TABLE OF SPECIAL SANCTIONS FOR EXCEEDING THE  
SPEED LIMIT IN EITHER A CONSTRUCTION OR SCHOOL ZONE**

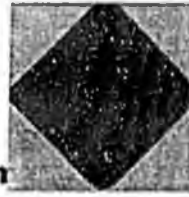
STATE	SANCTIONS FOR SPEEDING IN A CONSTRUCTION ZONE	SANCTIONS FOR SPEEDING IN A SCH
AK		Six (6) points are assessed on a person's record for exce school zone.
AR		<p><u>1st offense</u>: Jail-1 to 10 days jail/fine-\$25 to \$100</p> <p><u>2nd offense</u> (within 1 year): Jail-5 to 25 days/fine-\$50 t (within 1 year): Jail-25 days to 6 months/fine-\$250 to S</p> <p><u>3rd offense</u> (within 1 year): License suspension for 1 ye</p>
CT	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <u>double the usual amount.</u>	
FL	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <u>double the usual amount.</u>	If a speeding offense occurs in a school zone, the design usual amount.
GA	Jail-not more than 12 months/fine-\$100 to \$2,000	
IL	There is a minimum fine of \$150.	There is a minimum fine of \$150.
KY	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <u>double the usual amount.</u>	
MI		Jail-not more than 90 days/fine-not more than \$100
MO	For speeding in a construction zone, a person is assessed an additional fine of \$35.	
NE	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <u>double the usual amount.</u>	
NY	<p><u>Exceeding the speed limit 10 MPH</u>: Fine-\$60 to \$100</p> <p><u>Exceeding the speed limit &gt;10 MPH but &lt;30 MPH</u>: Jail-Not more than 30 days/fine-\$120 to \$100</p> <p><u>Exceeding the speed limit &gt;30 MPH</u>: Jail-Not more than 30 days/fine-240 to \$400</p> <p>For a <u>2nd offense</u> (within 18 months) for any of the above offenses, the fine is increase by \$100.</p> <p>For a <u>subsequent offense</u> (within 18 months) for any of the above offenses, the fine is increase by \$250.</p>	

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ND	Fee schedule for exceeding the speed limit by 1 to 10 MPH-\$40 Fee schedule for exceeding the speed limit by >10 MPH-\$40 plus \$1 for each MPH over 10 MPH	
OH	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <u>double the usual amount.</u>	
PA	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <u>double the usual amount.</u>	Exceeding the speed limit in a school zone-\$35 plus \$2 of 5 MPH
SD	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <u>double the usual amount.</u>	
TN	For speeding in a construction zone, a person is subject to a fine of from \$250 to \$500. If the offense occurred while operating a commercial vehicle, 2 to 5 points are added to the person's driving record	
VA	The fine for exceeding the speed limit in a construction zone is not more than \$250.	
WV		Subsequent offense (within 2 years): Jail-not more than 1st or subsequent offense: Fine-\$100 to \$500
WI	If a speeding offense occurs in a construction zone, the designed fine is <u>double the usual amount</u>	1st offense: Fine-\$40 to \$300 Subsequent offense: Fine-\$80 to \$600



Washington State  
Department of Transportation



Washington

## Work Zone Safety Legislation

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### WORK ZONE SAFETY LEGISLATION GIVES WORKERS ADDED PROTECTION

"All it takes is one careless motorist and in the blink of an eye, many lives can be tragically changed forever"... These were the words of Tammy Malone, widow of WSDOT/Northwest Region engineer Michael D. Malone, as she testified in support of work zone safety measures before the Senate Transportation Committee on January 18, 1994. Her husband, Mike Malone, was killed after being struck by a drunk driver last June while working on Interstate 5 in Seattle.

Also testifying was Pat Forinash who was struck by a driver going 65 mph through a work zone in Seattle in August, 1993. He experienced first hand how current safety measures have failed to protect workers from drivers who show blatant disregard for other people's well being, or from drivers who are under the influence of alcohol or other substances or both. "Highway workers no longer wonder whether or not they will be injured by a driver or their passengers. Rather we wonder when and how badly," said Forinash.

As a result of the increasing numbers of work zone accidents, a new law was enacted by the Legislature in 1994 aimed at protecting highway workers. The two major provisions of the law are doubled fines for speeding in work zones and provisions for citing persons who drive negligently in work zones for endangerment of roadway workers.

Statewide, traffic collision reports indicate 17,297 incidents were reported within construction work zones from January 1, 1991 to June 30, 1996. These incidents included 12,184 injuries and 69 fatalities.

WSDOT's Work Zone Safety Task Force convened in September 1993 to study the problem. They found that drivers speeding through work zones created a substantial risk of injury or death to flaggers and other construction crew workers within highway work zones.

This new protective legislation, combined with the task force's 27 other recommendations, will ultimately lead to safer work zones and fewer injuries and deaths for WSDOT personnel. Task force recommendations call for increased and improved worker protection, operating procedures, worker and contractor training and incident reporting.

Some of those improvements will come through the use of innovative work zone safety devices, such as water-filled barriers, truck-mounted attenuators and movable barriers. Other changes include making workers' clothing more visible, using more law enforcement vehicles at work sites, and closely monitoring traffic control operations to make sure unneeded barrels and signs are removed. An added emphasis on safety in the work zone is also being provided for employees at district safety meetings.

Another major part of the work zone safety program is the Washington "Give 'em a Brake" public education campaign. Entering into its fifth year, the campaign will focus on developing a "partnering" agreement with the traveling public. Busboards, media packets, radio and television

public service announcements will be used to develop driver appreciation for what goes on in a construction work zone from a safety standpoint. In return, the department will keep the public informed of work, while minimizing delays by using various techniques to expedite work.

As construction and maintenance activities gear up, we can all do our part to raise awareness of safety in the work zones. Talk to your neighbors and friends. Write a letter to the editor. Let them know we are out there doing an important job and that we matter. If you have a good idea for spreading the word that you want to share, contact the Eastern Region Public Information Office at (509)324-6015 or Headquarters Communications in Olympia at (360)705-7075.

(This story was written by Ann Briggs of the WSDOT Olympic Region Communications Office.)

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Washington State Department of Transportation/Eastern Region  
2714 N. Mayfair St.  
Spokane, WA 99207  
(509)324-6000

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*Last updated: May 05, 1997*

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Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, June 17, 1997

## Speeding in work zones becomes costlier with passage of new state law

(Austin, Texas) — Motorists who blatantly disregard construction laws will have to ante up more money for their transgressions. Under House Bill 981, which passed this last legislative session, fines will double for speeding in construction zones or ignoring warning signs. That means that motorists who don't obey posted construction warning signs could pay as much as \$400 for the offense. And for highway construction workers, the news couldn't have come at a better time, say officials with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

"Summer is probably our busiest time since a lot of our roadway construction and maintenance is done in the warmer, drier months. That's also the time more Texans are on the roadways traveling. Each year between May and August, on-the-job accidents and injuries at TxDOT increase significantly. HB 981 is just one more tool we can use to better our workers' chances of being safe on the roadway," said Bill Burnett, executive director for TxDOT. Burnett and Rep. Clyde Alexander were on hand in Athens today for the first unveiling in the state of a new work zone warning sign that will be posted in construction work zones. Rep. Alexander, as chairman of the House Transportation Committee, authored the legislation.

Instead of the usual "Observe Warning Signs" that motorists typically see in construction zones, the new 3 feet by 6 feet "Traffic Fines Double" sign will greet drivers as they enter work zones. The signs, which bear the typical construction orange and black, are strikingly different from most construction signs. They, according to Rep. Alexander, carry more punch.

"Call it friendly caution from the state to speeders: you've been warned. The next time you speed in a construction zone or ignore a construction warning, it's going to cost you," said Rep. Alexander.

Although the signs were unveiled today, enforcement won't begin until January, the effective date of the legislation. The early posting of the signs, Burnett said, are simple reminders to the public of the importance of the law.

In 1995, there were 9,337 work-zone accidents in Texas, claiming the lives of 112 Texans. More than 19 percent of those accidents were caused by drivers either speeding or driving too fast for conditions.

"Everyday our workers put their lives on the line to make Texas roads better, to help Texans get to their destinations. All we want in return is to work in a safe environment. We don't think that's asking too much," Burnett said.

For more information, call Randall Dillard, (512)463-9896.

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TxDOT Phone Numbers

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[TxDOT Home Page](#)



Texas Department of Transportation

## Give Us a Brake!



### Slow down and save a life.

Meet Homer. He's your typical kind of guy. He's your neighbor, your friend, your relative. Every day Homer puts on his flashy orange vest, hard hat and steel-toed boots to protect himself from the dangers he faces at work. Homer is a highway worker. Orange signs, flashing yellow warning lights and winding lanes mark the area that Homer calls his "office." Construction work zones are perceived by motorists as inconvenient, but for highway workers like Homer, they are a way of life. Highway workers know how to make construction work zones safe for motorists and themselves, but Homer needs your help.

### Slow down and save a life.

Work zones are designed to keep travelers and workers safe on Texas roads. When motorists fail to obey traffic signs in work zones, both highway workers and motorists can lose.

### Slow down and save a life.

Imagine going to work each morning knowing you are putting your life on the line. In 1994, 89 fatal work-zone accidents occurred on Texas highways. The increasing rate of work-zone accidents has cost hundreds of Texas highway workers and motorists their lives.

### So drive smart - slow down and save a life.

Highway workers put their lives on the line to improve roads that make your trip safer, faster and more enjoyable. They join Homer in his plea for motorists to slow down and save a life: **GIVE US A BRAKE!**

### Don't speed.

Observe orange work-zone warning signs calling for reduced speed. Eighteen percent of work-zone accidents are caused by motorists driving too fast for conditions.

### Keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you.

Most accidents in work zones involve rear-end collisions.

### Stay alert.

Keep your eyes peeled for orange work-zone traffic signs. Pay attention to flaggers in orange vests directing traffic.

## **Be patient.**

Traffic delays in work zones are unavoidable as improvements are made to Texas roads. Patience can prevent accidents.

### **Highway work-zone accident facts**

- High speed causes 18 percent of accidents
- Most accidents occur in July
- Most accidents occur on a Friday
- Most accidents occur between 5 and 6 p.m.

**For information about work zone safety, contact the TxDOT office nearest you.**

[TxDOT Phone Numbers]

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