

TRUCK SPEED LIMITS

LEGISLATOR NOTICE

The Legislative Services Division is required to offer a brief history on the subject matter of a bill draft request prior to drafting (5-4-105, MCA; [Chapter 309, Laws of 2017](#)). The history must include related legislation introduced over the last five sessions and hyperlinks to the bill, hearing information, and fiscal notes. The legislation links below open to the page showing the status and history of bills introduced on this topic in the past. The bill text and any related fiscal notes can be accessed through the link at the top of that page.

Legislation can be complex, and this history is not intended to be exhaustive. Please contact the drafter of the requested bill for more information.

Background Materials and Research

Topic Summary: 61-8-312, MCA provides special speed limitations on certain trucks.

Trucks and truck tractors of more than 1 ton may go 65 miles an hour on the interstate, and 60 mph on other public highways during the day and 55 mph on other public highways during the night.

A truck-trailer-trailer or a truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer-trailer combination of vehicles has a speed limit of 65 mph, unless another section of the code or the vehicle’s permit specifies otherwise.

In 2015, the Legislature raised the default speed for truck-trailer-trailer and truck tractor-semitrailer-trailer-trailer combinations from 55 mph to 65 mph. A bill to allow trucks to travel at 70 mph on the interstate, and 70 mph on other public highways during daytime died in the House.

In 2013, a House bill striking “trucks” from 61-8-312 died in the Senate.

Introduced Legislation

2015

[HB 480](#) – (H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal -- AN ACT REVISING THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMITS FOR CERTAIN VEHICLES TRAVELING ON CERTAIN HIGHWAYS; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-8-303 AND 61-8-312, MCA.

[SB 375](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT REVISING THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMITS FOR CERTAIN VEHICLES TRAVELING ON CERTAIN HIGHWAYS; REVISING FINES FOR SPEEDING VIOLATIONS;

AUTHORIZING THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH TEMPORARY SPEED LIMITS;
AMENDING SECTIONS 61-8-303, 61-8-309, 61-8-312, 61-8-725, AND 61-11-203, MCA.

2013

[HB 548](#) – (S) Died in Standing Committee -- AN ACT REMOVING THE SPECIAL SPEED RESTRICTIONS ON TRUCKS; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-8-312, MCA.