

SENATE BILL NO. 240—SENATORS BREEDEN, COPENING, HARDY,
HORSFORD, LEE; COFFIN, MCGINNESS, SCHNEIDER AND
WOODHOUSE

MARCH 13, 2009

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN MANENDO,
MUNFORD AND SEGERBLOM

Referred to Committee on Energy, Infrastructure and Transportation

SUMMARY—Provides for the evaluation and establishment of
the maximum speed on certain portions of State
Route 159. (BDR 43-1072)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION — Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to highways; providing for the evaluation and
establishment of the maximum speed on certain portions
of State Route 159; and providing other matters properly
relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1 This bill establishes the State Route 159 Safety Speed Zone to provide for the
2 evaluation and establishment of the maximum speed on portions of State Route 159
3 that: (1) are within the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area; (2) abut or
4 are immediately adjacent to the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area; or
5 (3) have been designated as a Scenic Byway or State Scenic Byway.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 **Section 1.** The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:
2 1. Because of the unique character of the Red Rock Canyon
3 National Conservation Area, restrictions on the maximum speed for
4 vehicular traffic in and around the Red Rock Canyon National
5 Conservation Area are necessary for:



(a) The protection of the natural environment in and around the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area; and

(b) The safety and protection of the residents and visitors who enjoy the scenic beauty and recreational opportunities in and around the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

2. The enactment of this act is not intended to encourage the imposition of similar restrictions on other designated highways in this State.

Sec. 2. Chapter 484 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The State Route 159 Safety Speed Zone is hereby established.

2. Within the State Route 159 Safety Speed Zone, the Department of Transportation, in cooperation with other governmental entities whose jurisdiction includes this area, shall ensure that:

(a) The maximum speed that is allowed for vehicular traffic will be set by the Director of the Department of Transportation at a level which takes into consideration the safety and protection of the residents of and visitors to the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. In setting that maximum speed, the Director of the Department of Transportation shall consider, without limitation, the following factors:

(1) Activity of bicycles and pedestrians in the area.

(2) Protection of the natural environment.

(3) History of accidents and crashes in the area.

(4) Recreational activities conducted in the area.

(5) The evaluation and use of measures of traffic calming which will support the maximum speed that is set.

(6) The ability of law enforcement agencies to enforce effectively the maximum speed that is set.

(b) Adequate signage or other forms of notice are evaluated and installed to support and enhance the maximum speed that is set by the Director of the Department of Transportation, as described in paragraph (a).

3. The State Route 159 Safety Speed Zone consists of:

(a) Any portion of State Route 159 that is within the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area;

(b) Any portion of State Route 159 that abuts or is immediately adjacent to the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area; and

(c) Any portion of State Route 159 that has been designated as a Scenic Byway or State Scenic Byway.

4. As used in this section:



* S B 2 4 0 R 1 *

(a) "Scenic Byway" and "State Scenic Byway" have the meanings ascribed to them in the National Scenic Byways Program, as issued by the Federal Highway Administration in 60 Federal Register 26,759 on May 18, 1995.

(b) "Traffic calming" means a combination of measures and techniques intended to:

(1) Reduce vehicular speeds;

(2) Promote safe and pleasant conditions for motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians and residents;

(3) Improve the environment and usability of roadways;

(4) Improve real and perceived safety for nonmotorized traffic; or

(5) Any combination of subparagraphs (1) to (4), inclusive.

Sec. 3. 1. On or before February 1, 2011, the Director of the Department of Transportation shall submit a report on the effectiveness of the State Route 159 Safety Speed Zone and any recommendations for legislation to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmission to the 76th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

2. As used in this section, "State Route 159 Safety Speed Zone" means the zone established pursuant to section 2 of this act.

Sec. 4. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2009.

