Department of Planning and Budget
2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB856

   House of Origin ___ Introduced ___ Substitute ___ Engrossed

   Second House ___ In Committee ___ Substitute __X__ Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Carrico

3. **Committee:** Passed both houses

4. **Title:** **Highway speed limits.**

5. **Summary:** The proposed legislation would increase the general highway speed limit on Interstate highways and multi-lane, divided, limited access highways where it is presently 65 mph to 70 mph, subsequent to a traffic engineering study and analysis of available and appropriate accident and law-enforcement data. The provisions also apply to high occupancy vehicle lanes if such lanes are physically separated from the regular travel lanes.

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final. See Item 8.

7. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** None.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The bill could potentially affect approximately 1,130 miles of Interstate highways, including approximately 35 miles of high occupancy vehicle lanes, and 150 miles of multi-lane, divided, limited access roads. An engineering study to evaluate crash data, roadway geometry, existing vehicle speeds and volumes, and other aspects of the roadway would identify the appropriate locations for a speed limit increase and any roadside safety upgrades needed prior to increasing the speed limit. If eligible highways in urban areas are excluded due to interchange spacing and traffic volumes, approximately 700 to 800 miles of rural routes would require an engineering study. The studies would identify if the need exists for the installation of rumble strips, pavement markers, guardrails or any other safety features prior to raising the speed limit to 70 mph. Any potential costs associated with the studies and potential signage change are presently not available.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Transportation

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** None.

11. **Other Comments:** Identical to SB 537.

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