



March 29, 2023

The Honorable Dennis Johnson
Speaker of the House
North Dakota House of Representatives
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND

Re: House Bill 1475

Dear Speaker Johnson:

Pursuant to Article V, Section 9 of the North Dakota Constitution, I have vetoed House Bill 1475 and return it to the House.

House Bill 1475 increases the maximum speed limit on access-controlled, multilane interstate highways from 75 miles per hour (mph) to 80 mph unless otherwise permitted, restricted or required by conditions.

Increasing the maximum speed limit on interstate highways increases both the risk of speed-related crashes and the potential severity of such crashes. From 2017 to 2021, 178 people died in speed/aggressive driving-related crashes in North Dakota, and speeding or traveling too fast for conditions is a factor in approximately 30% to 40% of all fatal crashes in North Dakota each year. A study by the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety found that a 5 mph increase in the speed limit is associated with an 8.5% increase in fatality rates on interstate highways and freeways.

This increased risk runs counter to the goals of Vision Zero, North Dakota's multi-agency effort to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries caused by motor vehicle crashes. The 98 fatalities from motor vehicle crashes in North Dakota recorded in 2022 was the lowest annual total in 20 years, yet much work remains to improve seat belt usage in our state. In 2022, approximately 2 out of 3 fatalities were unbelted where seat belts were present in the vehicle.

Compared with secondary enforcement laws, primary seat belt laws have been associated with a 10% to 12% higher observed seat belt use rate, according to 2019 data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

A primary seat belt law is a reasonable and responsible means of mitigating the increased risk of a higher speed limit. In the absence of a primary seat belt law, I am unable to support the heightened risk of an increased speed limit on interstates.

For the reasons stated above, House Bill 1475 is vetoed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Burgum", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Doug Burgum
Governor

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1475

(Representatives Koppelman, Grueneich, Louser, Murphy, Pyle, D. Ruby, Schneider, Vetter)
(Senators Paulson, K. Roers)

AN ACT to amend and reenact subdivision i of subsection 1 of section 39-09-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to speed limitations on multilane highways; and to provide a penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subdivision i of subsection 1 of section 39-09-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- i. ~~Seventy-five~~Eighty miles [~~120.70~~128.75 kilometers] an hour on access-controlled, paved and divided, multilane interstate highways, unless otherwise permitted, restricted, or required by conditions.

Dennis E. Johnson
Speaker of the House

Tammy Miller
President of the Senate

Bruce J. Reich
Chief Clerk of the House

Brandi Meyer
Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1475.

House Vote: Yeas 65 Nays 29 Absent 0

Senate Vote: Yeas 25 Nays 21 Absent 1

Bruce J. Reich
Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at 2:36 P.M. on March 24, 2023.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2023.

Governor

Filed in this office this 25 day of April, 2023,

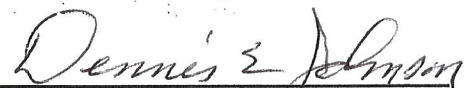
at 10:32 o'clock A M.

Michael Howe
Secretary of State

Honorable Michael Howe
Secretary of State
Bismarck, North Dakota

I certify this Act, House Bill No. 1475, together with the objections of Governor Burgum, was returned to the House, being the body in which it originated, on March 29, 2023; that the objections of the Governor were read at length on April 3, 2023, and entered upon the Journal; that the Bill was taken up for reconsideration; that the motion for reconsideration prevailed on April 3, 2023, at 1:19 p.m.; and the roll was called and the Bill failed to pass, with less than two-thirds of the members-elect voting in the affirmative.

Vote:	Yeas	58
	Nays	34
	Absent and not voting	2


Dennis E. Johnson
Speaker of the House


Buell J. Reich
Chief Clerk of the House