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SENATE BILL 226

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

INTRODUCED BY

George K. Muñoz

AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; ESTABLISHING A MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT  
FOR TRUCK TRACTORS; PROVIDING A PENALTY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 66-7-301 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,  
Chapter 35, Section 405, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-7-301. SPEED REGULATION.--

A. No person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at  
a speed greater than:

(1) fifteen miles per hour on all highways  
when passing a school while children are going to or leaving  
school and when the school zone is properly posted;

(2) thirty miles per hour in a business or  
residence district;

(3) fifty-five miles per hour on a county

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1 road, as defined in Section 66-7-304 NMSA 1978, without a  
2 posted speed limit;

3 (4) seventy-five miles per hour; and

4 (5) the posted speed limit in construction  
5 zones posted as double fine zones or other safety zones posted  
6 as double fine zones as designated by the department of  
7 transportation; provided that the posted speed limit shall be  
8 determined by an engineering study performed by the department  
9 of transportation.

10 B. In every event, speed shall be so controlled by  
11 the driver as may be necessary:

12 (1) to avoid colliding with a person, vehicle  
13 or other conveyance on or entering the highway;

14 (2) to comply with legal requirements as may  
15 be established by the department of transportation or the New  
16 Mexico state police division of the department of public safety  
17 and the duty of all persons to use due care; and

18 (3) to protect workers in construction zones  
19 posted as double fine zones or other safety zones posted as  
20 double fine zones as designated by the department of  
21 transportation.

22 C. No person shall drive a truck tractor on a  
23 highway at a speed greater than sixty-five miles per hour.

24 [~~C.~~] D. The speed limits set forth in Subsection A  
25 of this section may be altered as authorized in Section

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1 66-7-303 NMSA 1978."

2 SECTION 2. Section 66-8-116 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,  
3 Chapter 35, Section 524, as amended) is amended to read:

4 "66-8-116. PENALTY ASSESSMENT MISDEMEANORS--DEFINITION--  
5 SCHEDULE OF ASSESSMENTS.--

6 A. As used in the Motor Vehicle Code and the Boat  
7 Act, "penalty assessment misdemeanor" means violation of any of  
8 the following listed sections of the NMSA 1978 for which,  
9 except as provided in Subsections D through F of this section,  
10 the listed penalty assessment is established:

11	COMMON NAME OF OFFENSE	SECTION VIOLATED	PENALTY
12			ASSESSMENT
13	Vehicles subject to		
14	registration	66-3-1	\$ 50.00
15	Improper display of		
16	registration plate	66-3-18	25.00
17	Failure to notify of		
18	change of name or address	66-3-23	25.00
19	Lost or damaged registration,		
20	plate or title	66-3-24	25.00
21	Horseless carriage		
22	registration	66-3-27	25.00
23	Transfer of registration		
24	and title	66-3-103	25.00
25	Expiration of dealer		

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1	plates	66-3-403	25.00
2	Special registration		
3	plates	66-3-409, 66-3-412.1,	
4		66-3-413, 66-3-415,	
5		66-3-417, 66-3-419,	
6		66-3-421, 66-3-422,	
7		66-3-424.4, 66-3-424.5,	
8		66-3-424.7, 66-3-424.9,	
9		66-3-424.13, 66-3-424.16	
10		and 66-3-424.28	75.00
11	Bicycle laws	66-3-701	
12		through	
13		66-3-707	50.00
14	No license display	66-5-16	25.00
15	Failure to change		
16	address or name on		
17	license	66-5-22	25.00
18	Permitting unauthorized		
19	minor to drive	66-5-40	50.00
20	Permitting unauthorized		
21	person to drive	66-5-41	25.00
22	Failure to obey sign	66-7-104	25.00
23	Failure to obey signal	66-7-105	25.00
24	Pedestrian signs and		
25	signals	66-7-106	

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1		through	
2		66-7-108	25.00
3	Speeding	66-7-301	
4	(1) up to and including		
5	ten miles an hour		
6	over the speed limit		25.00
7	(2) from eleven up to		
8	and including fifteen		
9	miles an hour		
10	over the speed limit		30.00
11	(3) from sixteen up to		
12	and including twenty		
13	miles an hour over the		
14	speed limit		65.00
15	(4) from twenty-one up to		
16	and including twenty-five		
17	miles an hour		
18	over the speed limit		100.00
19	(5) from twenty-six up to		
20	and including thirty		
21	miles an hour over the		
22	speed limit		125.00
23	(6) from thirty-one up to		
24	and including thirty-five		
25	miles an hour over the		

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1	speed limit		150.00
2	(7) more than thirty-five		
3	miles an hour over the		
4	speed limit		200.00
5	<u>(8) truck tractor more than</u>		
6	<u>sixty-five miles per hour</u>		<u>250.00</u>
7	Unfastened safety belt	66-7-372	25.00
8	Child not in restraint device		
9	or seat belt	66-7-369	25.00
10	Minimum speed	66-7-305	25.00
11	Speeding	66-7-306	25.00
12	Improper starting	66-7-324	25.00
13	Improper backing	66-7-354	25.00
14	Improper lane	66-7-308	25.00
15	Improper lane	66-7-313	25.00
16	Improper lane	66-7-316	25.00
17	Improper lane	66-7-317	25.00
18	Improper lane	66-7-319	25.00
19	Improper passing	66-7-309	
20	through		
21		66-7-312	25.00
22	Improper passing	66-7-315	25.00
23	Controlled access		
24	violation	66-7-320	25.00
25	Controlled access		

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1	violation	66-7-321	25.00
2	Improper turning	66-7-322	25.00
3	Improper turning	66-7-323	25.00
4	Improper turning	66-7-325	25.00
5	Following too closely	66-7-318	25.00
6	Failure to yield	66-7-328	
7		through	
8		66-7-331	25.00
9	Failure to yield	66-7-332	50.00
10	Failure to yield	66-7-332.1	25.00
11	Pedestrian violation	66-7-333	
12		through	
13		66-7-340	25.00
14	Failure to stop	66-7-342	
15		and 66-7-344	
16		through	
17		66-7-346	25.00
18	Railroad-highway grade		
19	crossing violation	66-7-341	
20		and 66-7-343	150.00
21	Passing school bus	66-7-347	100.00
22	Failure to signal	66-7-325	
23		through	
24		66-7-327	25.00
25	Riding on motorcycles	66-7-355	100.00

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1	Video screens in		
2	automobiles	66-7-358	25.00
3	Driving on mountain		
4	highways	66-7-359	25.00
5	Coasting prohibited	66-7-360	25.00
6	Animals on highway at		
7	night	66-7-363	50.00
8	Failure to secure load	66-7-407	100.00
9	Operation without oversize-		
10	overweight permit	66-7-413	50.00
11	Transport of reducible		
12	load with special		
13	permit more than six miles		
14	from a border crossing	66-7-413	100.00
15	Driving while license		
16	administratively		
17	suspended	66-5-39.2	25.00
18	Improper equipment	66-3-801	
19	through		
20		66-3-840	
21		and 66-3-842	
22		through	
23		66-3-851	50.00
24	Improper equipment	66-3-901	50.00
25	Improper emergency		

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1	signal	66-3-853	
2		through	
3		66-3-857	25.00
4	Minor on motorcycle		
5	without helmet	66-7-356	300.00
6	Operation interference	66-7-357	50.00
7	Littering	66-7-364	300.00
8	Improper parking	66-7-349	
9		through	
10		66-7-352	
11		and 66-7-353	25.00
12	Improper parking	66-3-852	25.00
13	Riding in or towing		
14	occupied house trailer	66-7-366	25.00
15	Improper opening of doors	66-7-367	25.00
16	No slow-moving vehicle		
17	emblem or flashing		
18	amber light	66-3-887	25.00
19	Open container-first		
20	violation	66-8-138	25.00
21	Texting while driving-		
22	(1) first violation	66-7-374	25.00
23	(2) second and subsequent		
24	violation		50.00
25	Using a handheld mobile		

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1 communication device  
2 while driving a  
3 commercial motor vehicle 66-7-375  
4 (1) first violation 25.00  
5 (2) second and subsequent  
6 violation 50.00  
7 Improper use of travel lane 66-7-376 250.00.

8 B. The term "penalty assessment misdemeanor" does  
9 not include a violation that has caused or contributed to the  
10 cause of an accident resulting in injury or death to a person.

11 C. When an alleged violator of a penalty assessment  
12 misdemeanor elects to accept a notice to appear in lieu of a  
13 notice of penalty assessment, a fine imposed upon later  
14 conviction shall not exceed the penalty assessment established  
15 for the particular penalty assessment misdemeanor and probation  
16 imposed upon a suspended or deferred sentence shall not exceed  
17 ninety days.

18 D. The penalty assessment for speeding in violation  
19 of Paragraph (5) of Subsection A of Section 66-7-301 NMSA 1978  
20 is twice the penalty assessment established in Subsection A of  
21 this section for the equivalent miles per hour over the speed  
22 limit.

23 E. Upon a second conviction for operation without a  
24 permit for excessive size or weight pursuant to Section  
25 66-7-413 NMSA 1978, the penalty assessment shall be two hundred  
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1 fifty dollars (\$250). Upon a third or subsequent conviction,  
2 the penalty assessment shall be five hundred dollars (\$500).

3 F. Upon a second conviction for transport of a  
4 reducible load with a permit for excessive size or weight  
5 pursuant to Subsection N of Section 66-7-413 NMSA 1978 more  
6 than six miles from a port-of-entry facility on the border with  
7 Mexico, the penalty assessment shall be five hundred dollars  
8 (\$500). Upon a third or subsequent conviction, the penalty  
9 assessment shall be one thousand dollars (\$1,000)."

10 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
11 provisions of this act is July 1, 2025.