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CHAPTER 449.

AN ACT to amend 85.40 (2) (a), (3) (a) and (b) and 85.91 (2), and to create 85.40 (1) (g) and (h) and (6) of the statutes, relating to a state speed limit, impeding traffic, reckless driving and providing penalties.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 85.40 (1) (g) and (h) of the statutes are created to read:
85.40 (1) (g) 55 miles per hour during nighttime.
(h) 65 miles per hour.

SECTION 2. 85.40 (2) (a) and (3) (a) and (b) of the statutes are amended to read:
85.40 (2) (a) * * * No person shall operate a vehicle at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under * * * conditions and having regard for the actual and potential hazards then existing * * * and the speed of the vehicle shall be so controlled as may be necessary to avoid colliding with any object, person, vehicle or other conveyance on or entering the highway in compliance with legal requirements and using due care.

(3) (a) Whenever the state highway commission with respect to the state trunk highway system, and the local authorities with respect to highways under their jurisdiction, shall determine upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that any speed limit hereinbefore set forth, except in subsection (1) (c) * * * to (h), or the actual speed of vehicles on such highways, is greater or less than is reasonable or safe under the conditions found to exist at any intersection or other place or upon any part of a highway, said commission and local authorities may determine and declare a reasonable and safe speed limit thereat, which shall be effective at all times, or at such times as may be determined and indicated by appropriate signs giving notice thereof. The speed limits determined as the result of such engineering surveys shall be applicable to not more than 2,000 miles of state trunk highways.

(b) Local authorities may increase speed limits as provided by this section, but may not decrease speed limits set forth in subsection (1) (a) (b), *nor increase the speed limits set forth in subsection (1) (g) and (h)*, nor establish speed limits at any location set forth in subsection (2) without the approval of the state highway commission, nor shall signs giving notice thereof be erected before such approval.

SECTION 3. 85.40 (6) of the statutes is created to read:

85.40 (6) No person shall operate a vehicle upon a highway at a speed so slow as to impede or block the reasonable and lawful movement of traffic. Traffic officers may lawfully direct such a person to move at a reasonably increased speed or to yield the roadway to overtaking vehicles in accordance with section 85.12.

SECTION 4. 85.91 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

85.91 (2) Any person violating any of the provisions of section 85.14 (2), section 85.15 (1), (2) and (3), section 85.16 (3) to (7) and (9), (10), (11) and (12), section 85.18 (7), section 85.19 (1), (5) and (9), sections 85.20, 85.24, 85.29, 85.30 and 85.32, section 85.34 (3), sections 85.36 to 85.38, section 85.39 (3), section 85.40 (1) (a) * * *, (b), (g) and (h) and (2) (c), section 85.41 (2), sections 85.45, 85.47, 85.48, 85.49, 85.51, 85.52, 85.54 to 85.60 and 85.62 and section 85.67 (1) shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not to exceed \$25 for the first offense and for the second or each subsequent conviction within one year thereafter, by a fine of not to exceed \$100 or by imprisonment in the county or municipal jail for not more than 30 days or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Approved July 8, 1949.