

March 6, 1996

LB 901

limits on the state and federal highways, this bill would increase that to 60 mile an hour. And they could decrease the speed limits without us giving them this direction. Is that...would that be the case, Senator Kristensen?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Schrock, I think that's correct. What occurs is that we, at the state level, are dealing with the state highway system of which the paved roads in the counties are not part of the state highway system. And the federal mandate, now that it's lifted, would allow those counties to basically set what they want to. When those county, those paved county roads become part of the state highway system or connect into them, at that point that's where we take over. And so I think you're correct.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Okay. With that, I hope this amendment is clear. What I'm trying to do is make sure that the speed limit on paved county roads does not exceed 55 miles per hour.

SPEAKER WITHEM: On the Schrock amendment, Senators Kristensen, Cudaback, Janssen, Chambers, and Vrtiska.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I don't have a problem with the policy here of allowing and setting a maximum speed limit on county roads. The policy choice, basically, goes like this, should the state mandate what the speed limit is on county roads, one, if you reach that and say, yes, that's probably a good policy, you'll have those that may yip at you and say, well, that's an infringement on local control. As to whether it ought to be 55 mile an hour, quite frankly, that's what it is right now. I don't hear a tremendous roar of people wanting to increase that on those roads. Those county roads probably don't have the same standards of construction that the state highway system has, so you have a wide variety of conditions of those roads. Some of them have extremely narrow roadways. Generally, what a lot of those are in some areas were well traveled gravel roads that, because of necessity, farm to market, or other roads, just went out and got paved and they didn't go and condemn any more land to get room for paved shoulders or so on. And so being cautious and in the eyes of safety, I think that you're probably wise in setting a lower speed. And I have no problem with the Schrock