

History of Ohio's Speed Limit Laws

(Rev. 7/13)

1908	The first speed limit was 20 mph outside municipalities, 8 mph inside municipalities
1926	35 mph
1940	45 mph
1941	50 mph
12/1/42	Gas rationing and a 35 mph speed limit on all roads that had been in effect along the East Coast for 7 months was extended nationally to conserve gasoline and rubber during World War II
8/15/45	50 mph speed limit reinstated
1958	60 mph daytime, 50 mph speed limit at night
1963	70 mph for cars and 55 mph for trucks and commercial tractors on interstates; 60 mph daytime and 50 nighttime on non interstates
1974	55 mph for all vehicles on interstates and most other highways
1987	65 mph for cars on 900 miles of rural interstates, 55 mph for commercial vehicles weighing more than 8,000 lbs.
1991	65 mph for cars on another 246 miles of interstates
1992	65 mph on 209 miles of rural non interstates
1996	Speed limits raised to 65 mph on designated urban interstates and rural highways for passenger vehicles and commercial buses
2002	Am. Sub. SB 123 (effective date 11/1/02) overhauls point system for speeding. Effective date for provisions dealing with changes in Ohio's point system for speeding is 1/1/04. (Click here for details.)
2004	The Ohio Turnpike Commission approved a resolution increasing the speed limit for commercial vehicles from 55 mph to 65 mph in August 2004. Effective date: 9/8/04
12/10	Ohio Turnpike Commission approves a resolution to increase the speed limit on the Ohio Turnpike to 70 mph for cars and trucks. Effective date: 4/1/11
2011-12	HB 395 , which proposed to raise Ohio's speed limit to 70 mph on segments of Ohio's interstate freeways was introduced and reported by the House Transportation, Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee. It was never voted on by the full Ohio House.
2013	Under HB 35 , speed limits increased from 65 mph to 70 mph on most of Ohio's rural interstate freeway systems (those outside of urban areas). The measure also sets the maximum speed limit for interstate outerbelts in urban areas at 65 mph and on freeways in congested areas at 55 mph. Effective date: 7/1/13 Cost to make the 317 new 70 mph signs needed: \$8,287.19. Click here for Ohio Dept. of Transportation 70 mph map.

Source: Excerpts from Ohio Historical Society