Motor Vehicle Division Informational Memo # 26-02

2026 Legislation – Speeding conviction changes

DATE: June 25th, 2026
FROM: Kasey Lee, Compliance Officer, MVD
TO: All Motor Vehicle Division staff, Iowa County Treasurers and County Treasurers' staff that issue driver's licenses and non-operator's identification cards.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1st, 2026

SUBJECT

This memo explains Senate File 378, enacted during the 2026 legislative session, which modifies how certain speeding violations are recorded and evaluated for purposes of driver's license suspensions to align with increasing the minimum speed limit on certain roadways.

SUMMARY

Senate File 378 raises the speed limit on certain 2-lane highways in Iowa from 55mph to 60 mph. As a result, the legislation makes corresponding changes to how speeding convictions are recorded on a certified driving record and evaluated for habitual violator suspensions and probation violation suspensions.

Certified driving record

The legislation changes how qualifying speeding convictions are displayed on the certified driving record. For speeding convictions occurring prior to July 1st, 2026, the driving record currently displays that the violation was for 10 mph or less over the limit in a 34-55 mph zone, but under the bill, the driving record must now display that the conviction was in a 34-56 mph zone. For convictions occurring on or after July 1st, 2026, the certified driving record must now reflect whether the violation involved speeds of 10 mph or less over the speed limit in a 34-61 mph zone.

Habitual violator suspension

The legislation modifies the existing exemption used when determining whether speeding convictions count toward a habitual violator suspension under Iowa Code section 321.210 and Iowa administrative rule 761—615.6. Under current law, the first two speeding convictions occurring in a twelve-month period for violations involving speeds of 10 mph or less over the speed limit in a 34-56 mph zone are not considered for habitual violator suspensions. Effective July 1st, 2026, the exemption will instead apply to the first two speeding conviction involving speeds of 10 mph or less over the speed limit in a 34-61 mph zone.

Probation violation suspension

The legislation also modifies the criteria used to determine probation violations under Iowa Code section 321.210C. Currently, the first two speeding convictions occurring within the probation period involving speeds of 10 mph or less over the speed limit in a 34-56 mph zone are excluded from

consideration for a suspension for probation violation. Effective July 1st, 2026, the exemption will instead apply to the first two speeding convictions involving speeds of 10 mph or less over the speed limit in a 34-61 mph zone.

LINK TO LEGISLATION
https://www.legis.iowa.gov/perma/0402202619261

CURRENT (Prior to July 1, 2026)
The maximum speed limit on state and rural 2-lane highways in Iowa is 55 mph.

The certified driving record displays speeding violations that are 10 mph or less in 34-55 mph zone.

The first two speeding convictions a person receives for violations of 10 mph or less over the limit in a 34-56 mph zone are not considered for imposing a habitual violator suspension or probation violation suspension.

NEW (Effective July 1st, 2026)
The maximum speed limit on state and rural 2-lane highways in Iowa is 60 mph.

The certified driving record must display speeding violations prior to July 1, 2026, that are 10 mph or less in 34-56 mph zone and on and after July 1, 2026 that are 10 mph or less in a 34-61 mph zone.

The first two speeding convictions a person receives for violations of 10 mph or less over the limit in a 34-61 mph zone are not considered for imposing a habitual violator suspension or probation violation suspension.

BUSINESS IMPACT
Programming changes are being made to ARTS and CORE to update the automated evaluation criteria for speeding convictions.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Will convictions that occurred before July 1, 2026, be reevaluated using the new criteria?
No. Convictions occurring prior to July 1, 2026, must continue to be evaluated using the 34-56 mph zone criteria that were in effect at the time of the conviction.

What happens for violations occurring before July 1, 2026, that aren't convicted until after July 1, 2026?
Violations occurring prior to July 1, 2026, should continue to be evaluated using the prior 34-56 mph zone criteria, even if the conviction is entered on or after July 1, 2026. The legislation specifies that the applicable criteria are based on the date of the violation, not the date the conviction is posted to the driving record.

Will violations under the old law combine with violations under the new law toward a habitual violator suspension or probation violation suspension?

Yes. Speeding convictions occurring before and after July 1st, 2026, may be considered together when determining whether a person has accumulated sufficient convictions for a habitual violator suspension or probation violation suspension. However, each speeding conviction must be evaluated using the exemption criteria that were in effect on the date of the violation. Violations occurring before July 1, 2026, are evaluated using the 34-56 mph zone criteria, while violations occurring on or after July 1, 2026, are evaluated using the 34-61mph zone criteria.