Cruce's speed limit bill OK'd

Senate amends it heavily; no \$5 surtax

They could call it the "Cruce-ler

The Michigan Senate last week

Bill."

The Michigan Senate last week passed 30-4, and sent to the House, a 65 mph speed limit bill sponsored by Doug Cruce, R-Troy.
But in two days of debate, senators introduced some elements from a broader bill sponsored by Sen. Richard Fessler, R-Commerce.

"It is not a bill which jopardizes highway funds," Cruce told the Senate, He referred to the fact that his bill applied only to interstate freeways whereas Fessler's also covered four-lane divided highways such as US-23 (Ann Arbor-Flint corridor).

Most state officials believe federal aid could be cut off if Michigan went as far as Fessler wanted to go in raising speed limits.

Fessler's district includes West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Township, Cruce's district includes Birmingham and some of the Royal Ook area.

SENATORS failed to give Gov.
James J. Blanchard what he wanted
— '. \$5 surfaz on traffic tickets to
Itannec more police patrols.

Cruce's bill will apply to 22 milles
areas of less than \$5,000 population.
—'It is most likely to be signed by
the governor.' he said.

The Senate tacked on several
amendments be voice vote during
general orders debate:

• Cruce would have provided a
"sunset" date of April 1289, at which
time the speel filmit would automatically drop back to \$5 unless the Legislature acted again. Senators removed the sunset date, as in the Fesster bill.

ster bill. Soen Jack Faxon, D-Farmingto fills, won approval of an amendment to charge no "points" to a driver's record for conviction of speeding one to five mpt over the limit.
Sen. Gilbert DiNello, D-East Detroit, bilstered the points concept.
"The Secretary of State keeps a
record of your points for two years;
then you have a clean state. The insurance companies keep your points

almost forever," he said, charging insurers raise rates for drivers with points even when those drivers have no accidents.

• Sen. Connie Binsfeld, R-Maple City, won support for her amendment to make fines "suggested" instead of "mandated," again bringing the Cruce bill closer to Fessler's version.

sion.
"We have judges fully capable of
making the punishment fit the
crime," said Majority Leader John
Engler, R-Mount Pleasant.

FESSLER LOST with his pet amendment — to make the speed limit 65 by day and 55 by night. That had been a key provision in his bill, intended to placate those opposed to raising the speed limit at ail. But Faxon countered that he can see as well "by the light of the moon" as by daylight, and that there is less traffic at night. The Senate also shot down Fesster's request to pass both his bill

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and Cruce's. He said it would force the House of Representatives to negotiate with Blanchard and pick one
version.

"Let's give the tools to the House
to work out the differences," he said.

"It's irregular to write two bills on
the exact same subject," objected
Cruce.

Faxon, a lawmaker more than 20
years, agreed with Cruce.

"I never heard of two bills, in all
my years, on the same subject," said
Faxon, whose district includes
Southfield. "After you perfect one
bill, what's the purposes."

After his bill was postponed for a
week, then for a day, Fessier withdrew it entirely.

HERE'S THE schedule of penalties under Cruce's bill:

One to live mph over the limit
– zero points, \$20 line.

Six to 10 mph — one point, \$20 fine.

11-15 mph — two points, \$40 fine.



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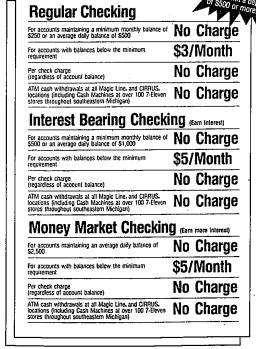






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