

Speed

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75 miles per hour," she said.
On Wednesday afternoon, the Transportation Committee amendments were adopted by a 26-6 vote. Those amendments will become law if the bill is passed.
The section of those amendments that deal with a stricter law enforcement of the maximum speed limit also spawned discussion.
But Chambers said it would be nearly impossible to have officers stop those traveling one or two miles over the new speed limit.
"With all the miles in this state,

"The time saved is not worth the cost of life and the cost of fuel."

SEN. CAP DIERKS
Ewing

you couldn't hire enough troopers to do what some of the members of this floor would want them to do," he said.
Later this week, senators are expected to vote on whether to advance the bill to the second stage of consideration.

Islamic women advance

Speaker challenges Western stereotypes

By Julie Sobczyk
Senior Reporter

As the 21st century approaches, Islamic women of the Middle East are defying traditional Western stereotypes and are working to improve themselves, a speaker said Wednesday.
Elizabeth Fernea, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin, gave her speech "Islamic Women Today: New Challenges, Changing Roles," as the fourth part of this year's E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues.

Traditional Western world stereotypes portray Islamic women of the Middle East in two different ways, Fernea said.

Western men see those women as exotic and sexy, she said.

"From diaries, books and plays, we see the sexy lady extended on a couch, scantily clad, with slaves fanning her," she said.

And Western women hold a differ-

ent view.

"She appears as a household slave," Fernea said. "A baby machine, a slave."

But these stereotypes don't hold true anymore, she said.

"They are not lying around being fanned," she said. "They are not passive."

Stereotypes are broken as the women improve themselves in the work place, education and politics, Fernea said.

About 40 percent of Islamic women work outside the home, she said, compared to 7 percent in 1973. Women also are vying for more promotions at work.

With employment comes extra income for these women, she said, and that gives them a sense of power.

More women are attending universities, Fernea said, and with education they are forming more women's

movements.

A new religious women's movement has embraced women of all social classes and helps them continue their educations, Fernea said.

Islamic women also have become politically involved, Fernea said.

In the countries of Morocco, Jordan, Egypt and Palestine, Islamic women all have been elected to public office recently, she said, even though other countries are trying to keep women out of politics.

And with the rise of Islamic women in the work force, education and politics, the stale stereotypes need to change, Fernea said.

"We need to look at the women of the Middle East with new glasses," she said. "We need to see how they are creatively making a new life out of old pieces of tradition."

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