

State Patrol was checking Monday I rely on what the law says, and it says



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uner it has to enforce the posted limit or the new law.

"The law says we enforce the posted speed limit but we're also seeing how the new law is written," said Jeff Hanson of the State Patrol.

"I'm not sure if any of us or the Legislature really thought of where Sept. 1 fell on the calendar," Monty Frederickson, state deputy director for engineering, said.

The State Patrol is discussing the matter with county attorneys and will decide this week whether it will enforce the old or new limit, Hanson said.

We still recommend that people drive at the posted limit because you may be speeding without knowing it," he said.

About 1,600 miles of two-lane highways will remain at 55 mph because of hazardous conditions determined by the state Department of Roads.

The state senator who proposed the speed limit increase says the State Pa-trol should enforce the new law and not the old signs.

"If I happen to get a ticket this weekend, I would have a case because

the speed limit goes up on Sept. 1, Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha said.

Chambers said the Department of Roads would be usurping the Legislature's authority if enactment of the new speed limit is delayed.

"I don't think they have the right to make that kind of change under the law," Chambers said. "Otherwise it is the Department of Roads amending an act of legislation, which it does not have the authority to do."

The Department of Roads doesn't claim to have authority over the Legislature, Frederickson said, it just wants drivers to abide by the posted limit as a matter of safety for the busy holiday weekend.

Frederickson said it will take about two days to change all the signs along 7,600 miles of state highway. He hopes to have all 2,300 of the new signs posted by Sept. 4.

"We just don't have enough employees to switch all those signs in a few hours or even a day," he said. "We can't get them all changed at once. We need to have some reasonable transition period."