

Ohio lawmakers seek costly new penalties for extreme speeders

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COLUMBUS, Ohio—Drivers in Ohio caught going more than 30 miles per hour over the speed limit could be hit with a new \$200 fine on top of existing penalties, under recently introduced Ohio House legislation.

[House Bill 111](#), introduced last month with bipartisan support, is aimed at both raising penalties to a higher, more appropriate level for the state's most reckless drivers and to deter motorists from driving that fast, according to state Rep. Kevin Miller, a Newark Republican who is co-sponsoring the bill.

Research shows that higher speeds lead to more crashes, and those crashes are more likely to be deadly. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, which advocates against speed limit increases, says [29% of all crash fatalities were in speed-related crashes in 2022](#).

Currently, speeders found driving more than 30 mph over the limit pay fines that vary by county -- the fine in Franklin County, for example, is \$227. The cost in Cleveland wasn't immediately available on Monday, as the Cleveland Municipal Court's website was down. The bill would add an additional \$200 penalty.

Under Ohio law, driving that fast is also a violation that takes four points off Ohioans' driver's licenses. Racking up 12 points within two years results in a six-month license suspension.

Under [state law](#), penalties increase if the speeding took place in a school or construction zone and/or if it's a repeat offense. A court could also hand down [a separate misdemeanor conviction](#) if it finds the motorist was driving "in willful or wanton disregard of the safety of persons or property" -- which results in an additional fine, as well as possible jail time for repeat offenders.

From Jan. 1 through March 9, the Ohio State Highway Patrol issued 1,337 tickets for driving more than 30 mph over the speed limit, [according to the patrol's website](#). That's just under 4% of the 33,940 speeding citations handed out overall during that time by state troopers.

During the same time frame in 2024, the highway patrol wrote 1,702 citations for driving more than 30 mph over the limit, according to the data.

Miller, in an interview, said the bill is intended to crack down on the outliers who are driving at speeds that risk the lives of both themselves and others.

“This isn’t just your average person that’s going a little bit too fast on the interstate,” said Miller, a former state trooper. “This is somebody, for example, (on) an interstate that’s running triple digits, 100 miles an hour -- and that’s a huge problem creating dangers for everybody on the roadways.”

Besides Miller, HB111’s cosponsors currently include four Republicans and one Democrat – state Rep. Sean Brennan of Parma. The bill has been assigned to the House Public Safety Committee but hasn’t yet received a hearing.