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H.511

Introduced by Representative Fagan of Rutland City

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Motor vehicles; town highways; speed limits

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to eliminate the requirement for a municipality to conduct a traffic and engineering investigation in order to establish a speed limit on town highway segments that abut residential property.

An act relating to the establishment of speed limits on town highways

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1007 is amended to read:

§ 1007. LOCAL SPEED LIMITS

(a)(1) The legislative body of a municipality may establish, ~~on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation,~~ a speed limit on all or a part of any city, town, or village highway (town highway) within its jurisdiction, which:

(A) is not more than 50 miles per hour; ~~however, after considering neighborhood character, abutting land use, bicycle and pedestrian use, and physical characteristics of the highways, the legislative body of a municipality may vote to set the maximum speed limit, without an engineering and traffic~~

1 ~~investigation, at not more than 50 miles per hour nor less than 35 miles per~~  
2 ~~hour, on all or a portion of unpaved town highways within its boundaries,~~  
3 ~~unless otherwise posted in accordance with the provisions of this~~  
4 ~~section; or and~~

5 (B) is not less than 25 miles per hour.

6 (2) The legislative body shall establish speed limits under this  
7 subsection on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, except that  
8 such investigation is not required under either of the following circumstances:

9 (A) For town highway segments that abut residential property. As  
10 used in this subdivision (a)(2)(A), “residential property” means property zoned  
11 residential or property on which a structure designed primarily to provide  
12 principal dwelling accommodations is located.

13 (B) After considering neighborhood character, abutting land use,  
14 bicycle and pedestrian use, and physical characteristics of the highways, if the  
15 legislative body votes to set a maximum speed limit of not more than 50 miles  
16 per hour nor less than 35 miles per hour on all or a portion of unpaved town  
17 highways within its boundaries, unless otherwise posted. If the legislative  
18 body of a municipality so votes to set the speed limit on all unpaved town  
19 highways in its boundaries at no more than 50 miles per hour nor less than 35  
20 miles per hour as provided for in subdivision (a)(1) of this section, signs shall  
21 be located at points of change from one speed limit to another.

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Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.