

1 H.183

2 Introduced by Representative Clarkson of Woodstock

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Motor vehicles; speed limits; municipalities

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize a
7 municipality to set a speed limit below 25 miles per hour if an engineering and
8 traffic investigation demonstrates that the speed limit is necessary to address a
9 specific traffic safety issue.

10 An act relating to speed limits on town highways

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

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

13 § 1007. LOCAL SPEED LIMITS

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

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

1 and traffic investigation, at not more than 50 miles per hour nor less than
2 35 miles per hour, on all or a portion of unpaved town highways within its
3 boundaries, unless otherwise posted in accordance with the provisions of this
4 section; ~~or, and provided that signs shall be located at points of change from~~
5 one speed limit to another.

6 (2) The legislative body of a municipality may establish, on the basis of
7 an engineering and traffic investigation, a speed limit on all or a part of any
8 town highway within its jurisdiction that is not less than 25 miles per hour,
9 unless the investigation demonstrates that a lower speed limit is necessary to
10 address a specific traffic safety issue.

11 ~~If the legislative body of a municipality votes to set the speed limit on all~~
12 ~~unpaved town highways in its boundaries at no more than 50 miles per hour~~
13 ~~nor less than 35 miles per hour as provided for in subdivision (a)(1) of this~~
14 ~~section, signs shall be located at points of change from one speed limit to~~
15 ~~another.~~

16 (b) The legislative body of a city may establish, on the basis of an
17 engineering and traffic investigation, a speed limit on all or a part of any state
18 highway, other than a limited access highway, within its jurisdiction, which:

19 (1) is not more than 50 miles per hour; or

20 (2) is not less than 25 miles per hour.

1 (c) Any altered limit is effective at all times ~~or~~, during hours of darkness, or
2 at other times as may be determined when appropriate signs giving notice are
3 erected upon the street or highway.

4 (d) ~~The special regulations~~ Regulations adopted under this section have the
5 full force and effect of law ~~and are in the case of regulations.~~ Regulations
6 adopted under subsections (a) and (b) of this section are subject to review by
7 the traffic committee, whose decision is final.

8 (e) Lack of evidence of a traffic and engineering study will not invalidate a
9 local speed limit ordinance as adopted or amended under this section after five
10 years following the day on which the speed limit ordinance took effect.

11 (f) Notwithstanding the procedure outlined in this section for enacting a
12 local speed limit, a town or village may adopt a local speed ordinance on a
13 state highway, other than on limited access highways, provided the ordinance
14 duplicates the speed limit established under section 1003 of this title.

15 (g) Notwithstanding any requirements of section 1025 of this title,
16 downtown development districts designated under 24 V.S.A. chapter 76A ~~of~~
17 ~~Title 24~~ may have posted speed limits of less than 25 miles per hour.

18 Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 4 is amended to read:

19 § 4. DEFINITIONS

20 Except as may be otherwise provided herein, and unless the context
21 otherwise requires in statutes relating to motor vehicles and enforcement of the

1 law regulating vehicles, as provided in this title and 20 V.S.A. part 5, the
2 following definitions shall apply:

3 * * *

4 (83)(A) "Town" includes incorporated villages and cities.

5 (B) "Town highway" has the same meaning as in 19 V.S.A. § 1(23).

6 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

7 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.