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H.627

Introduced by Representative McCullough of Williston

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Motor vehicles; speed limits; interstate highway; Traffic Committee

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a maximum speed limit of 55 miles per hour on Interstates 89 and 91.

An act relating to establishing a maximum speed limit of 55 miles per hour on Interstates 89 and 91

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

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1004 is amended to read:

§ 1004. ~~INTERSTATE~~ HIGHWAY RULES

(a) The Traffic Committee has exclusive authority to make and publish, and from time to time may alter, amend, or repeal, rules pertaining to vehicular, pedestrian, and animal traffic, and the public safety on the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways and other limited access and controlled access highways within this State. The rules and any amendments or revisions may be made by the Committee only in accordance with 3 V.S.A. chapter 25. The rules shall be consistent with accepted motor vehicle codes or standards, shall be consistent with law, and

1 shall not be unreasonable or discriminatory in respect to persons engaged in
2 like, similar, or competitive activities. The rules are applicable only to the
3 extent that they are not in conflict with regulations or orders issued by any
4 agency of the United States having jurisdiction and shall be drawn with due
5 consideration for the desirability of uniformity of law of the several states of
6 the United States.

7 (b) Rules authorized by this section are effective on interstate and other
8 limited access and controlled access highways only, taking precedence over
9 those then in force and future highway laws and rules applicable to highways
10 generally; however, the general highway laws and rules are effective on
11 interstate highways until properly authorized rules providing otherwise are
12 adopted.

13 (c) Rules, together with alterations and amendments of rules, made under
14 this section have the force of law, and violations shall be traffic violations
15 under section 2302 of this title.

16 (d) The Traffic Committee shall not set a speed limit exceeding 55 miles
17 per hour on Interstates 89 and 91 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower National
18 System of Interstate and Defense Highways within the State.

19 Sec. 2. IMPLEMENTATION

20 (a) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this section, and not
21 later than September 1, 2020, the Traffic Committee shall file with the

1 Secretary of State a proposed amended rule governing the use of State
2 highways with limited access facilities (C.V.R. 14-053-004) that is consistent
3 with 23 V.S.A. § 1004(d) as amended by Sec. 1 of this act.

4 (b) The amended rule described in subsection (a) of this section shall be
5 adopted so as to take effect not later than January 1, 2021.

6 (c) The Agency of Transportation shall design and conduct a campaign to
7 inform Vermonters of the impending change to the speed limit on Interstates
8 89 and 91 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and
9 Defense Highways within the State and shall ensure that all affected speed
10 limit signs are replaced and correct as of the date the amended rule takes effect.

11 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on passage.