

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Transportation to which was referred Senate Bill No.
3 339 entitled “An act relating to miscellaneous changes to laws related to
4 vehicles” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends
5 that the House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended as follows:

6 First: By striking out Sec. 6, 23 V.S.A. § 1222, in its entirety and inserting
7 in lieu thereof the following:

8 Sec. 6. [Deleted.]

9 Second: By inserting the following reader assistance heading before Sec.
10 13:

11 * * * Exempt Vehicle Title * * *

12 Third: By striking out Sec. 14, 23 V.S.A. § 1399, in its entirety and
13 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

14 Sec. 14. 23 V.S.A. § 1399 is amended to read:

15 § 1399. EXCEPTIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

16 EQUIPMENT; FIRE APPARATUS; AND HEAVY-DUTY TOW

17 AND RECOVERY VEHICLES

18 (a) As used in this section, “heavy-duty tow and recovery vehicle” means a
19 vehicle that:

20 (1) is transporting a disabled vehicle from the place where the vehicle
21 became disabled to the nearest appropriate repair facility; and

1 (2) has a gross vehicle weight that is equal to or exceeds the gross
2 vehicle weight of the disabled vehicle being transported.

3 (b) Nothing contained in sections 1391–1398 of this title, shall restrict the
4 weight of:

5 (1) ~~snow~~ Snow plows, road machines, oilers, traction engines, tractors,
6 rollers, power shovels, dump wagons, trucks, or other construction or
7 maintenance equipment when used by any town, incorporated village, city, or
8 ~~state~~ the State in the construction or the maintenance of any highway, provided
9 that such construction or maintenance is performed by persons employed by or
10 under contract with such town, incorporated village, city, or the State for this
11 purpose. However, any operation of motorized highway building equipment or
12 road making appliances used in construction work contracted by a town,
13 incorporated village, city, or the State shall be unrestricted as to weight only
14 within a construction area.

15 (2) ~~Nothing contained in sections 1391–1398 of this title shall restrict the~~
16 ~~weight of municipal~~ Municipal and volunteer fire apparatus.

17 (3) Heavy-duty tow and recovery vehicles on the Dwight D. Eisenhower
18 System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

19 Fourth: By inserting a Sec. 15a to read as follows:

20 Sec. 15a. 23 V.S.A. § 1437 is added to read:

1 § 1437. EXCEPTION FOR TOWAWAY TRAILER TRANSPORTER

2 COMBINATION

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) “Towaway trailer transporter combination” means a combination of
5 vehicles consisting of a trailer transporter towing unit and two trailers or
6 semitrailers with a total weight that does not exceed 26,000 pounds and in
7 which the trailers or semitrailers carry no property and constitute inventory
8 property of a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer of such trailers or
9 semitrailers.

10 (2) “Trailer transporter towing unit” means a power unit that is not used
11 to carry property when operating in a towaway trailer transporter combination.

12 (b) Notwithstanding sections 1391–1398 of this title, a towaway trailer
13 transporter combination may be operated on the Dwight D. Eisenhower System
14 of Interstate and Defense Highways, those classes of qualifying Federal-aid
15 Primary System highways as designated by the Secretary of the U.S.
16 Department of Transportation, and on highways leading to or from the Dwight
17 D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways for a distance of
18 one mile or less without a permit if the overall length does not exceed 82 feet
19 unless the Vermont Secretary of Transportation finds the use of a specific
20 highway to be unsafe.

1 Fifth: By striking out Sec. 26, online permitting system, and its
2 corresponding reader assistance heading in their entirety and inserting in lieu
3 thereof the following:

4 * * * Online Permitting System; Report * * *

5 Sec. 26. ONLINE PERMITTING SYSTEM; REPORT

6 (a) Centralized online permitting system.

7 (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles is authorized to initiate the
8 design and development of a centralized online permitting system. The online
9 system shall provide 24-hour-a-day access to a system where a person can
10 apply for, obtain, and pay for required weight and length permits issued by the
11 Agency of Transportation.

12 (2) The Commissioner shall design the online system so that, in a future
13 phase, municipally issued weight and length permits may be purchased and
14 issued through the same system. The Commissioner shall consult with
15 stakeholders to establish conditions for municipally issued permits prior to
16 engaging in design and development for the future phase.

17 (b) Permit study and report.

18 (1) The Agency of Transportation shall facilitate a study to:

19 (A) identify any safety or financial implications to infrastructure,
20 including bridges, culverts, pavement, and roadways, or jurisdictional issues
21 for class 2 town highways if municipal permits currently required by

1 municipalities are not required for vehicles that are allowed on State highways
2 without a permit;

3 (B) identify any safety or financial implications to infrastructure,
4 including bridges, culverts, pavement, and roadways if an additional permit or
5 permits are not required when a wrecker, as defined under 23 V.S.A. § 4(76),
6 is towing one or more disabled vehicles and the wrecker and disabled vehicle
7 or vehicles individually do not exceed the limitations imposed by 23 V.S.A.
8 chapter 13, subchapter 15, article 1 or are lawfully operating under a blanket
9 permit; and

10 (C) make recommendations on any limitations, including distance
11 towed, or conditions that should be imposed if an additional permit or
12 permits are not required in the situation identified in subdivision (B) of this
13 subdivision (1).

14 (2) The Agency shall file a written report on this study with the House
15 and Senate Committees on Transportation on or before January 15, 2021.

16 Sixth: By striking out Sec. 28, use of lighted paddle signaling devices, in its
17 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

18 **Sec. 28. USE OF LIGHTED PADDLE SIGNALING DEVICES; REPORT**

19 (a) Pilot program. On or before September 1, 2020, the Agency of
20 Transportation shall identify a minimum of 10 projects to pilot the use of
21 STOP/SLOW paddle signaling devices modified to improve conspicuity by

1 incorporating either white or red flashing lights on the STOP face and either
2 white or yellow flashing lights on the SLOW face in one of the patterns and
3 consistent with the standards detailed in Part 6E.03 of the Manual Uniform on
4 Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The Agency shall select projects that will
5 allow the testing of such devices in a range of projects to collect data on the
6 effectiveness, reliability, and availability during the 2021 and 2022
7 construction seasons.

8 (b) Report. The Agency shall file a written report on the pilot program
9 identified in subsection (a) of this section with the House and Senate
10 Committees on Transportation on or before December 1, 2022. At a minimum,
11 the report shall cover:

12 (1) the selected projects, including location and a brief description; and

13 (2) an evaluation of the effectiveness, reliability, and availability of the
14 lighted paddle signaling devices.

15 Seventh: In Sec. 44, effective dates, subsection (a) by striking out “43
16 (learner’s permits; 23 V.S.A. § 617(e))” and inserting in lieu thereof “42
17 (translated documents and use of interpreters)”

18 Eighth: In Sec. 44, effective dates, by striking out subsection (d) in its
19 entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

20 (d) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 43 (learner’s permits; 23 V.S.A.
21 § 617(e)) shall take effect retroactively on June 1, 2020.

1 (e) All other sections shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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6 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE