

1 H.8

2 Introduced by Representative McCullough of Williston

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Motor vehicles; speed limits; limited access and controlled access

6 highways; Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and

7 Defense Highways; Traffic Committee

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a
9 maximum speed limit of not more than 55 miles per hour on all limited access
10 and controlled access highways in Vermont, which includes all highways in
11 the State that are on the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate
12 and Defense Highways.

13 An act relating to establishing a maximum speed limit of not more than 55
14 miles per hour on limited access facilities

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

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

17 § 1004. ~~INTERSTATE~~ HIGHWAY RULES

18 (a) The Traffic Committee has exclusive authority to make and publish,
19 and from time to time may alter, amend, or repeal, rules pertaining to
20 vehicular, pedestrian, and animal traffic, and the public safety on the Dwight

1 D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways and other
2 limited access and controlled access highways within this State. The rules and
3 any amendments or revisions may be made by the Committee only in
4 accordance with 3 V.S.A. chapter 25. The rules shall be consistent with
5 accepted motor vehicle codes or standards, shall be consistent with law, and
6 shall not be unreasonable or discriminatory in respect to persons engaged in
7 like, similar, or competitive activities. The rules are applicable only to the
8 extent that they are not in conflict with regulations or orders issued by any
9 agency of the United States having jurisdiction and shall be drawn with due
10 consideration for the desirability of uniformity of law of the several states of
11 the United States.

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

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

1 (d) The Traffic Committee shall set a maximum speed limit of not more
2 than 55 miles per hour on limited access and controlled access highways,
3 including Interstates 89, 91, 93, 189, and 289 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower
4 National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, within the State.

5 Sec. 2. IMPLEMENTATION

6 (a) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this section, and not
7 later than September 1, 2021, the Traffic Committee shall file with the
8 Secretary of State a proposed amended rule governing the use of State
9 highways with limited access facilities (C.V.R. 14-053-004) that is consistent
10 with 23 V.S.A. § 1004(d) as added by Sec. 1 of this act.

11 (b) The amended rule described in subsection (a) of this section shall be
12 adopted so as to take effect not later than January 1, 2022.

13 (c) The Agency of Transportation shall design and conduct a campaign to
14 inform Vermonters of the impending change to the speed limit on limited
15 access and controlled access highways within the State and shall ensure that all
16 affected speed limit signs are replaced and correct as of the date the amended
17 rule takes effect.

18 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on passage.