

[PROPOSED NEW LANGUAGE FOR MISC. MV BILL]

* * * Statutory Default Speed Limits on

Unpaved and Unposted Town Highways * * *

Sec. A. 23 V.S.A. § 1081 is amended to read:

§ 1081. BASIC RULE AND MAXIMUM LIMITS

(a) No individual shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions, having regard for the actual and potential hazards then existing. In every event, speed shall be controlled as necessary to avoid colliding with any individual, vehicle, or other object on or adjacent to the highway.

(b) Except when there exists a special hazard that requires lower speed in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, the limits specified in this section or established pursuant to this section are maximum lawful speeds, and no individual shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed in excess of:

(1) 50 miles per hour; or

(2) 35 miles per hour on an unpaved town highway, as defined in 19 V.S.A. § 301(7), appearing on the official town highway map, as required pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 305, that does not have a posted speed limit.

(c) The maximum speed limits set forth in this section may be altered in accordance with sections 1003, 1004, 1007, and 1010 of this title.

1 (d) The driver of every vehicle shall, consistent with the requirements of
2 subsection (a) of this section, drive at an appropriate, reduced speed when
3 approaching and crossing an intersection or railway grade crossing, when
4 approaching and going around a curve, when approaching the crest of a hill,
5 when traveling upon any narrow or winding roadway, and when special hazard
6 exists.

7 Sec. B. OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

8 The Agency of Transportation, in consultation with the Vermont League of
9 Cities and Towns and the State’s regional planning commissions, shall prepare
10 materials disseminating information on the new statutory default speed limits
11 for unposted and unpaved town highways in 23 V.S.A. § 1081(b)(2), as added
12 by Sec. A of this act, not later than September 1, 2023 to municipalities and
13 law enforcement and to the general public through signage and on the
14 Agency’s website. At a minimum, the materials shall include, except in the
15 case of signage:

16 (1) what the new statutory default speed limit is;

17 (2) an easy to understand, including pictures, description of what town
18 highways the new statutory default speed limit applies to; and

19 (3) the effective date of Sec. A of this act.

20 * * * Proof of Liability Insurance; Snowmobiles * * *

21 Sec. C. 23 V.S.A. § 3206(b) is amended to read:

1 (b) A snowmobile shall not be operated:

2 * * *

3 (19) Without carrying proof of liability insurance as described in this
4 subdivision. No owner or operator of a snowmobile shall operate or permit the
5 operation of the snowmobile on the Statewide Snowmobile Trail System or
6 public right of way, except on the property of the owner, without having in
7 effect a liability policy or bond in the amounts of at least \$25,000.00 for one
8 person and \$50,000.00 for two or more persons killed or injured and
9 \$10,000.00 for damages to property in any one crash. In lieu thereof, evidence
10 of self-insurance in the amount of \$115,000.00 must be filed with the
11 Commissioner. Such financial responsibility shall be maintained and
12 evidenced in a form prescribed by the Commissioner. The standards and
13 process established in subsection 801(c) of this title shall be adopted. An
14 operator may prove financial responsibility using a portable electronic device;
15 however, use of a device for this purpose does not in itself constitute consent
16 for an enforcement officer to access other contents of the device. An operator
17 cited for violating this subsection shall not be convicted if the operator sends or
18 produces to the issuing enforcement agency within seven business days of the
19 traffic stop proof of financial responsibility that was in effect at the time of the
20 traffic stop.

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- 1 NOTE ON EFFECTIVE DATES:
- 2 Sec. A takes effect on 1/1/24 and Secs. B & C takes effect on 7/1/23.