

S.287

Introduced by Senators Weeks, Baruth, Brock, Chittenden, Collamore, Gulick,
Heffernan, Major, Ram Hinsdale and Williams

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Highways; State highway law; Interstate 87; Route 22A; study

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a study
committee to examine the potential for constructing a new self-funding limited
access highway to connect the economic centers of Burlington, Vergennes,
Middlebury, and Rutland to Interstate 87 and replace Vermont Route 22A.

An act relating to studying the construction of a self-funding limited access
highway replacing Route 22A and linking Burlington, Vergennes,
Middlebury, and Rutland to Interstate 87

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

Sec. 1. INTERSTATE 22A; STUDY COMMITTEE; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the Interstate 22A Limited Access Highway
Study Committee to examine the potential for constructing a new limited
access highway to connect the population centers of central-west and
northwest Vermont to Interstate 87 and replace Vermont Route 22A as the
primary route from Burlington to Interstate 87.

- 1 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following
2 members:
- 3 (1) the Secretary of Transportation or designee;
4 (2) two current members of the House, not from the same political party,
5 appointed by the Speaker of the House;
6 (3) two current members of the Senate, not from the same political
7 party, appointed by the Committee on Committees;
8 (4) the Mayor of Burlington or designee;
9 (5) the Chair of the South Burlington City Council or designee;
10 (6) the Mayor of Vergennes or designee;
11 (7) the Chair of the Middlebury Selectboard or designee;
12 (8) the Mayor of Rutland or designee;
13 (9) a member appointed by the Chittenden County Regional Planning
14 Commission;
15 (10) a member appointed by the Addison County Regional Planning
16 Commission; and
17 (11) a member appointed by the Rutland Regional Planning
18 Commission.
- 19 (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall examine the potential to
20 construct a limited access highway to connect the population centers of central-
21 west and northwest Vermont to Interstate 87 and replace Vermont Route 22A

1 as the primary route from Burlington to Interstate 87, including the following
2 issues:

3 (1) the current and projected usage of Vermont Route 22A;

4 (2) the potential route for a new limited access highway to connect
5 Burlington to Interstate 87;

6 (3) the projected cost to construct a new highway connection between
7 Burlington and Interstate 87;

8 (4) potential funding mechanisms for a new highway, including the
9 utilization of tolls through integration into the E-ZPass Group or through the
10 utilization of a public-private partnership;

11 (5) the projected economic impact of a new highway connection
12 between Burlington and Interstate 87 on Vermont and on the population
13 centers of central-west and northwest Vermont; and

14 (6) other projected impacts on Vermont and communities located along
15 U.S. Route 7 in Vermont of a new highway connection between U.S. Route 7
16 and Interstate 87.

17 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
18 and legal assistance of the Agency of Transportation.

19 (e) Report. On or before January 15, 2027, the Committee shall submit a
20 written report to the General Assembly with its findings and any
21 recommendations for legislative action.

1 (f) Meetings.

2 (1) The Secretary of Transportation shall call the first meeting of the
3 Committee to occur on or before September 1, 2026.

4 (2) The Secretary of Transportation or designee shall be the Chair.

5 (3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

6 (4) The Committee shall cease to exist on February 15, 2027.

7 (g) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Committee who
8 are not otherwise compensated for their attendance at meetings shall be entitled
9 to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under
10 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for not more than six meetings. These payments shall be
11 made from monies appropriated to the Agency of Transportation.

12 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.