

Short Side-by-Side Comparison of S.123:
As Agreed by Committee of Conference and as Passed by House

Section CoC/Hse	As Agreed to by Committee of Conference	As Passed House	Notes
1	Same	Same	• Same
2	Same	Same	• Same
3	Same	Same	• Same
4	Same	Same	• Same
5	Same	Same	• Same
6	Same	Same	• Same
7	Same	Same	• Same
8	Same	Same	• Same
9/NA	<p>23 V.S.A. § 608 is amended to read: § 608. FEES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p><u>(d) Individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Income and individuals with a disability as defined in 9 V.S.A. § 4501 shall be provided with operator’s licenses or operator privilege cards for the following fees:</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(1) Original issuance: \$20.00. (2) Renewal every four years: \$20.00. (3) Replacement of lost, destroyed, or mutilated card or a new name is required: \$10.00.</p>	<p>23 V.S.A. § 608 is amended to read: § 608. FEES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p><u>(d) Individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Income and individuals with a disability as defined in 9 V.S.A. § 4501 shall be provided with operator’s licenses or operator privilege cards for the following fees:</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(1) Original issuance: \$20.00. (2) Renewal every four years: \$20.00. (3) Replacement of lost, destroyed, or mutilated card or a new name is required: \$10.00.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> House Agrees to Senate proposal of reduced fees for SSI/SSDI to be effective July 1, 2026.
10/9	Same	Same	• Same
11/10	Same	Same	• Same
12/11	Same	Same	• Senate accepts House Proposal
13/12	Same	Same	• Same
14/13	Same	Same	• Same
15/14	Same	Same	• Same
16/15	Same	Same	• Same
17/16	<p><u>§ 115b. EARLY RENEWAL</u></p> <p><u>(a) The holder of a nondriver identification card issued under the provisions of section 115 of this chapter may renew the nondriver identification card at any time prior to the expiration of the nondriver identification card. If</u></p>	<p><u>§ 115b. EARLY RENEWAL</u></p> <p><u>(a) The holder of nondriver identification card issued under the provisions of section 115 of this chapter may renew the nondriver identification card at any time prior to the expiration of the nondriver identification card. If one</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical correction in Senate Proposal.

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	<u>one or more years remain before the expiration of the nondriver identification card, the Commissioner shall reduce the cost of the renewed nondriver identification card by an amount that is proportionate to the number of years rounded down to the next whole year remaining before the expiration of the nondriver identification card.</u> <u>(b) All application and documentation requirements for the renewal of a nondriver identification card pursuant to section 115 of this chapter shall apply to the early renewal of a nondriver identification card.</u>	<u>or more years remain before the expiration of the nondriver identification card, the Commissioner shall reduce the cost of the renewed nondriver identification card by an amount that is proportionate to the number of years rounded down to the next whole year remaining before the expiration of the nondriver identification card.</u> <u>(b) All application and documentation requirements for the renewal of a nondriver identification card pursuant to section 115 of this chapter shall apply to the early renewal of a nondriver identification card.</u>	
18/17	Same	Same	• Senate and House agree to use DMV Proposed Language
19/18	Same	Same	• Senate accepts House Proposal
20/19	Same	Same	• Same
21/20	Same	Same	• Same
22/21	Same	Same	• Same
23/22	Same	Same	• Same
24/23	Same	Same	• Same
25/24	Same	Same	• Same
26/25	Same	Same	• Same
27/26	Same	Same	• Same
28/27	Same	Same	• Same
29/28	Same	Same	• Same
30/29	Same	Same	• Same
31/30	Same	Same	• Same
32/31	Same	Same	• Same
33/32	Same	Same	• Same
33/NA	Same	Same	• Senate accepts House Proposal
34/33	Same	Same	• Same
35/34	Same	Same	• Same
36/35	Same	Same	• Same

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37/36	Same	Same	• Same
38/37	Same	Same	• Same
39/NA	[Deleted.]	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deleted in House version Senate agrees to deletion of language
40/NA	[Deleted.]	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deleted in House version Senate agrees to deletion of language
41/NA	[Deleted.]	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deleted in House version Senate agrees to deletion of language
39/38	Same	Same	• Same
40/39	Same	Same	• Senate accepts House Proposal
41/40	Same	<p>23 V.S.A. § 1139 is amended to read:</p> <p>§ 1139. RIDING ON ROADWAYS AND BICYCLE PATHS</p> <p>(a) A person <u>Due care and riding on the right.</u> An individual operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall exercise due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction. Bicyclists generally shall ride as near to the right side of the improved area of the highway right-of-way as is safe, except that a bicyclist:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p>(b) Persons riding <u>Riding two abreast.</u> Individuals operating bicycles upon a roadway may shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles or except as otherwise permitted by the Commissioner of Public Safety in connection with a public sporting event in which case the Commissioner shall be authorized to adopt such rules as the public good requires. Persons <u>Individuals</u> riding two abreast shall not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic and, on a laned roadway, shall ride within a single lane.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added by House Senate agrees to House Proposal with delayed effective date of July 1, 2026

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		<p><u>(c) Obedience to traffic-control devices and traffic-control signals. An individual operating a bicycle shall follow all traffic-control devices and traffic-control signals governing motor vehicles except that an individual operating a bicycle who is facing a “walk” signal, as defined in section 1023 of this chapter, may make a turn or proceed across the roadway or intersection in the direction of the signal but shall yield the right of way to any vehicles or pedestrians in the roadway or intersection.</u></p> <p><u>(d) Riding on a partially controlled access highway.</u> Bicycles may be operated on the shoulders of partially controlled access highways, which are those highways where access is controlled by public authority but where there are some connections with selected public highways, some crossings at grade, and some private driveway connections. The Traffic Committee may determine that any portion of these highways is unsafe and therefore closed to bicycle operation.</p>	
42/41	Same	Same	• Senate accepts House Proposal
43/42	Same	Same	• Senate accepts House Proposal
44/43	Same	<p>FINDINGS; INTENT; LEGAL TRAILS</p> <p><u>(a) Findings. The General Assembly finds the following:</u></p> <p><u>(1) Outdoor recreation is a significant part of Vermont’s identity and economy.</u></p> <p><u>(2) Trails provide Vermonters and visitors with access to natural beauty throughout the State and are used for a wide variety of outdoor recreational activities throughout the year.</u></p> <p><u>(3) Some trails are also used by Vermonters for travel or to access their homes and properties.</u></p> <p><u>(4) The State and municipalities use some trails to provide maintenance to State and municipal lands and</u></p>	• Senate accepts House Proposal

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		<p><u>facilities, as well as to provide public safety and rescue services.</u></p> <p><u>(5) Trails may require regular maintenance to ensure that they remain passable and can continue to support recreation, travel, access, and various public services.</u></p> <p><u>(6) While many trails in Vermont have been established through private easements or other agreements, a subset of trails, known as legal trails, lie along public rights-of-way that were once town highways and are governed by the provisions of 19 V.S.A. chapter 3.</u></p> <p><u>(b) Intent. It is the intent of the General Assembly to clarify municipalities’ authority to exclusively or cooperatively maintain legal trails under the provisions of 19 V.S.A. chapter 3.</u></p>	
45/44	Same	<p>19 V.S.A. chapter 3 is amended to read:</p> <p>CHAPTER 3. TOWN HIGHWAYS</p> <p>§ 301. DEFINITIONS</p> <p>As used in this chapter:</p> <p>* * *</p> <p>(2) “Legislative body” includes boards of selectmen, aldermen, and village trustees <u>means a legislative body as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2001.</u></p> <p>(3) “Selectmen” includes village trustees and aldermen <u>“Selectboard” means a selectboard as defined in 24 V.S.A. § 2001.</u></p> <p>* * *</p> <p>(8)(A) “Trail” means a public right-of-way that is not a highway and that:</p> <p>(i) <u>municipalities have the authority to exclusively or cooperatively maintain pursuant to the provisions of this chapter; and</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identical to language that appeared in Senate version of H.488• Senate agrees to House language as modified by Committee of Conference with delayed effective date of April 1, 2026.

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		<p>(A)(ii)(I) previously was a designated town highway having the same width as the designated town highway, or a lesser width if so designated; or</p> <p>(B)(II) a new public right-of-way laid out as a trail by the selectmen <u>legislative body</u> for the purpose of providing access to abutting properties or for recreational use.</p> <p>(B) Nothing in this section <u>subdivision (8)</u> shall be deemed to independently authorize the condemnation of land for recreational purposes or to affect the authority of selectmen <u>legislative bodies</u> to reasonably regulate the uses of recreational trails.</p> <p>§ 302. CLASSIFICATION OF TOWN HIGHWAYS</p> <p>(a) For the purposes of this section and receiving State aid, all town highways shall be categorized into one or another of the following classes:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p>(2) Class 2 town highways are those town highways selected as the most important highways in each town. As far as practicable, they shall be selected with the purposes of securing trunk lines of improved highways from town to town and to places that by their nature have more than normal amount of traffic. The selectmen <u>legislative body</u>, with the approval of the Agency, shall determine which highways are to be class 2 highways.</p> <p>(3) Class 3 town highways:</p> <p>(A) Class 3 town highways are all traveled town highways other than class 1 or 2 highways. The selectmen <u>legislative body</u>, after conference with a representative of the Agency, shall determine which highways are class 3 town highways.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p>	

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		<p>(5) Trails shall not be considered highways and the town. <u>A municipality shall have the authority to maintain trails but shall</u> not be responsible for any maintenance, including culverts and bridges.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p>§ 303. TOWN HIGHWAY CONTROL Town highways shall be under the general supervision and control of the selectmen <u>legislative body</u> of the town where the roads are located. Selectmen <u>The legislative body of a town</u> shall supervise all expenditures.</p> <p>§ 304. DUTIES OF SELECTBOARD (a) It shall be the duty and responsibility of the selectboard of the town to, or acting as a board, it shall have the authority to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p>(16) Unless the town electorate votes otherwise, under the provisions of 17 V.S.A. § 2646, appoint a road commissioner, or remove him or her <u>the road commissioner</u> from office, pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2651. Road commissioners, elected or appointed, shall have only the powers and authority regarding highways granted to them by the selectboard.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p> <p>(24) <u>Maintain trails, but shall not be required to maintain trails.</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * *</p>	
46/45	<p>EFFECTIVE DATES (a) <u>This section and Secs. 16 and 17 (early renewal of operator’s licenses, operator’s privilege cards, and nondriver identification) shall take effect on passage.</u> (b) <u>Sec. 45 (maintenance of legal trails) shall take effect on April 1, 2026.</u></p>	<p>EFFECTIVE DATES (a) <u>This section and Secs. 15 and 16 (early renewal of operator’s licenses, operator’s privilege cards, and nondriver identification) shall take effect on passage.</u> (b) <u>The remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2025.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senate includes delayed effective date for window tinting provisions, which do not appear in House proposal.• House includes effective date on passage for early renewal of license and ID (Senate effective date for those sections is July 1)

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	<u>(c) Secs. 9 (reduced license fees for individuals receiving SSI or SSDI benefits) and 41 (operation of bicycles) shall take effect on July 1, 2026.</u> <u>(d) The remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2025.</u>		