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H.17

Introduced by Representatives LaLonde of South Burlington and McCormack
of Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Highways; municipalities; speed limits

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize the legislative body of a municipality to establish speed limits as low as 15 miles per hour on town highways in school zones and on town highway segments that abut public parks or residential property.

An act relating to municipal authority to establish speed limits

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

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 1007 is amended to read:

§ 1007. LOCAL SPEED LIMITS

(a)(1) The legislative body of a municipality may establish, on the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation, a speed limit on all or a part of any city, town, or village highway (town highway) within its jurisdiction, ~~which:~~
~~(A) that is not more than 50 miles per hour; however, after and not~~
less than 25 miles per hour, except that the body may establish a limit of not
less than 15 miles per hour:

1 (A) In school zones designated in accordance with 19 V.S.A. § 921.

2 (B) On town highway segments that abut public parks owned or
3 operated by a municipality.

4 (C) On town highway segments that abut residential property. As
5 used in this subdivision (a)(1)(C), “residential property” means property zoned
6 residential or property on which a structure designed primarily to provide
7 principal dwelling accommodations is located.

8 (2) After considering neighborhood character, abutting land use, bicycle
9 and pedestrian use, and physical characteristics of the highways, the legislative
10 body of a municipality may vote to set the maximum speed limit, without an
11 engineering and traffic investigation, at not more than 50 miles per hour nor
12 less than 35 miles per hour, on all or a portion of unpaved town highways
13 within its boundaries, unless otherwise posted in accordance with the
14 provisions of this section; ~~or~~

15 ~~(B) is not less than 25 miles per hour.~~

16 (2) If the legislative body of a municipality so votes ~~to set the speed~~
17 ~~limit on all unpaved town highways in its boundaries at no more than 50 miles~~
18 ~~per hour nor less than 35 miles per hour as provided for in subdivision (a)(1) of~~
19 ~~this section~~, signs shall be located at points of change from one speed limit to
20 another.

21 * * *

1 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.