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H.126

Introduced by Representatives Dolan of Waitsfield, Anthony of Barre City,
Arrison of Weathersfield, Bongartz of Manchester, Burrows of
West Windsor, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Coffey of Guilford,
Elder of Starksboro, Grad of Moretown, Houghton of Essex,
James of Manchester, Mrowicki of Putney, Ode of Burlington,
Townsend of South Burlington, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Motor vehicles; pedestrian safety; traffic calming; crosswalks; speed
limits; Traffic Committee

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a
pedestrian safety pilot program; allow municipalities to seasonally install in-
street pedestrian crossing signs in crosswalks; allow municipalities to lower
certain speed limits on State highways; and express the General Assembly's
intent that the Traffic Committee should not increase the speed limit on a State
highway in response to a municipality's request that the speed limit be
lowered.

An act relating to pedestrian safety

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

2 * * * Pedestrian Safety Pilot Program * * *

3 Sec. 1. PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PILOT PROGRAM; REPORT

4 (a) Pilot program. On or before September 1, 2021, the Agency of
5 Transportation shall identify a minimum of 10 State and municipal projects to
6 pilot the use of pedestrian safety measures. The Agency shall select projects
7 that are located throughout the State, in both rural and urban communities, and
8 utilize both permanent and temporary infrastructure, including signage, and
9 low-technology resources, such as crossing flags. The Agency shall ensure
10 that all projects comply with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices,
11 where applicable, and that the person managing the project collects data on the
12 effectiveness, reliability, and availability of the infrastructure or resources
13 utilized as part of the project.

14 (b) Report. The Agency of Transportation shall file a written report on the
15 pilot program identified in subsection (a) of this section with the House and
16 Senate Committees on Transportation on or before December 15, 2022. At a
17 minimum, the report shall cover:

18 (1) the selected projects, including the location and a brief description of
19 each project; and

20 (2) an evaluation of the effectiveness, reliability, and availability of the
21 infrastructure or resource utilized as part of the project.

1 (c) Municipal funding. Municipal projects selected under subsection (a) of
2 this section shall be eligible for a grant award of up to \$25,000.00 per project
3 from the Agency of Transportation.

4 (d) Appropriation. The sum of \$250,000.00 is appropriated from the
5 Transportation Fund to the Agency of Transportation in fiscal year 2022 for
6 the purpose of providing funding for municipal projects under subsection (c) of
7 this section.

8 (e) Pedestrian safety studies. If the appropriation in subsection (d) of this
9 section is not fully utilized in grant awards for municipal projects, then the
10 Agency of Transportation shall provide grant awards to municipalities to
11 conduct pedestrian safety studies in rural communities.

12 * * * In-Street Pedestrian Crossing Signs * * *

13 Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 1030 is added to read:

14 § 1030. IN-STREET PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNS

15 Notwithstanding 19 V.S.A. § 1111, municipalities may install in-street
16 pedestrian crossing signs in non-signalized crosswalks on State and town
17 highways. In-street pedestrian crossing signs may continuously remain in
18 crosswalks from May 1 until October 15.

1 the speed limit could safely be increased. The speed limit in question should
2 only be increased if the engineering and traffic investigation indicates that not
3 doing so will create a greater safety hazard for the traveling public.

4 * * * Effective Date * * *

5 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on passage.