1	H.126
2	Introduced by Representatives Dolan of Waitsfield, Anthony of Barre City,
3	Arrison of Weathersfield, Bongartz of Manchester, Burrows of
4	West Windsor, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Coffey of Guilford,
5	Elder of Starksboro, Grad of Moretown, Houghton of Essex,
6	James of Manchester, Mrowicki of Putney, Ode of Burlington,
7	Townsend of South Burlington, and Yantachka of Charlotte
8	Referred to Committee on
9	Date:
10	Subject: Motor vehicles; pedestrian safety; traffic calming; crosswalks; speed
11	limits; Traffic Committee
12	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a
13	pedestrian safety pilot program; allow municipalities to seasonally install in-
14	street pedestrian crossing signs in crosswalks; allow municipalities to lower
15	certain speed limits on State highways; and express the General Assembly's
16	intent that the Traffic Committee should not increase the speed limit on a State
17	highway in response to a municipality's request that the speed limit be
18	lowered.

An act relating to pedestrian safety

19

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	* * * Speed Limits * * *
2	Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 1007(b) is amended to read:
3	(b)(1) The legislative body of a city may establish, on the basis of an
4	engineering and traffic investigation, a speed limit on all or a part of any State
5	highway, other than a limited access highway, within its jurisdiction, which
6	that:
7	(1)(A) is not more than 50 miles per hour; or
8	(2)(B) is not less than 25 miles per hour.
9	(2) The legislative body of a town or incorporated village containing a
10	downtown development district, village center, or new town center
11	development district designated under 24 V.S.A. chapter 76A may establish a
12	speed limit of 25 miles per hour on all or a part of any State highway, other
13	than a limited access highway, within the downtown development district,
14	village center, or new town center.
15	Sec. 4. MUNICIPAL REQUESTS TO CHANGE THE SPEED LIMIT ON A
16	STATE HIGHWAY
17	It is the intent of the General Assembly that when the Traffic Committee
18	receives a request from a municipality to have the speed limit on a State
19	highway, other than a limited access highway, within that municipality
20	lowered that the Traffic Committee does not subsequently increase the speed
21	limit in question even if the engineering and traffic investigation indicates that

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.