AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to giving local town boards the discretion to change speed limits for safety

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 1620 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subdivision (d) to read as follows:

(D) THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL DEFER TO REQUESTS FOR SPEED LIMIT CHANGES BY THE TOWN BOARD OF A TOWN OR TOWNS AFFECTED WITH RESPECT TO STATE HIGHWAYS MAINTAINED BY THE STATE IN SUCH TOWN OR TOWNS OUTSIDE OF CITIES OR VILLAGES, WHERE A REASONABLE NEXUS BETWEEN PUBLIC SAFETY AND SUCH REQUEST FOR A CHANGE IN SPEED LIMIT EXISTS.

Section 2. Section 1621 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subdivision (e) to read as follows:

(E) THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL DEFER TO REQUESTS FOR SIGNAGE AND SIGNAL CHANGES BY THE TOWN BOARD OF A TOWN OR TOWNS AFFECTED WITH RESPECT TO STATE HIGHWAYS MAINTAINED BY THE STATE IN SUCH TOWN OR TOWNS OUTSIDE OF CITIES OR VILLAGES, WHERE A REASONABLE NEXUS BETWEEN PUBLIC SAFETY AND SUCH REQUEST FOR A CHANGE IN SIGNAGE AND SIGNALS EXISTS.

Section 3. Section 1622 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subdivision 3 to read as follows:

3. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, IF ANY REASONABLE NEXUS EXISTS BETWEEN PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE REQUEST BY A COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS OF A COUNTY OR A TOWN BOARD, FOR A CHANGE IN SPEED LIMIT, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL DEFER TO THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS' OR TOWN BOARD'S REQUEST IN SETTING THE SPEED LIMIT ON THE COUNTY ROADS AND TOWN HIGHWAYS IN SUCH TOWN OR TOWNS OUTSIDE OF CITIES OR VILLAGES.

Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.