STATE OF NEW YORK

4655--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 4, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. GOTTFRIED, CARROLL, SEAWRIGHT, SIMON, GONZALEZ-ROJAS, BURDICK, GALLAGHER, PAULIN, DINOWITZ, EPSTEIN, GLICK, HEVESI, McDONOUGH, DAVILA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to establishing speed limits in cities with populations in excess of one million people

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as "Sammy's law".

§ 2. Paragraphs 26 and 27 of subdivision (a) of section 1642 of the vehicle and traffic law, paragraph 26 as added and paragraph 27 as amended by chapter 248 of the laws of 2014, are amended to read as follows:

26. (a) With respect to highways (which term for the purposes of this paragraph shall include private roads open to public motor vehicle traffic) in such city, other than state highways maintained by the state on which the department of transportation shall have established higher or lower speed limits than the statutory fifty-five miles per hour speed limit as provided in section sixteen hundred twenty of this title, or on which the department of transportation shall have designated that such city shall not establish any maximum speed limit as provided in section sixteen hundred twenty-four of this title, subject to the limitations imposed by section sixteen hundred eighty-four of this title, establishment of maximum speed limits at which vehicles may proceed within such city or within designated areas of such city higher or lower than the fifty-five miles per hour maximum statutory limit. No such speed limit applicable throughout such city or within designated areas of such city shall be established at less than [~~twenty-five~~] twenty miles per hour, except that school speed limits may be established at no less than

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

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fifteen miles per hour pursuant to the provisions of section sixteen hundred forty-three of this article.

(b) A city shall not lower **or raise** a speed limit by more than five miles per hour pursuant to this paragraph unless such city provides written notice and an opportunity to comment to the community board or community boards established pursuant to section twenty-eight hundred of the New York city charter with jurisdiction over the area in which the lower **or higher** speed limit shall apply. Such notice may be provided by electronic mail and shall be provided sixty days prior to the establishment of such lower **or higher** speed limit.

27. (a) Establishment of maximum speed limits below [~~twenty-five~~] **twenty** miles per hour at which motor vehicles may proceed on or along designated highways within such city for the explicit purpose of implementing traffic calming measures as such term is defined herein; provided, however, that no speed limit shall be set below [~~fifteen~~] **five** miles per hour nor shall such speed limit be established where the traffic calming measure to be implemented consists solely of a traffic control sign. Establishment of such a speed limit shall, where applicable, be in compliance with the provisions of sections sixteen hundred twenty-four and sixteen hundred eighty-four of this [~~chapter~~] **title**. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to alter or affect the establishment of school speed limits pursuant to the provisions of section sixteen hundred forty-three of this article. For the purposes of this paragraph, "traffic calming measures" shall mean any physical engineering measure or measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior and improve conditions for non-motorized street users such as pedestrians and bicyclists.

(b) Any city establishing maximum speed limits below [~~twenty-five~~] **twenty** miles per hour pursuant to clause (i) of this subparagraph shall submit a report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly on or before March first, two thousand fifteen and biannually thereafter on the results of using traffic calming measures and speed limits lower than [~~twenty-five~~] **twenty** miles per hour as authorized by this paragraph. This report shall also be made available to the public by such city on its website. Such report shall include, but not be limited to the following:

(i) a description of the designated highways where traffic calming measures and a lower speed limit were established and

(ii) a description of the specific traffic calming measures used and the maximum speed limit established and

(iii) a comparison of the aggregate type, number, and severity of accidents reported on streets on which street calming measures and lower speed limits were implemented in the year preceding the implementation of such measures and policies and the year following the implementation of such measures and policies, to the extent this information is maintained by any agency of the state or the city.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.