

STATE OF NEW YORK

524

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by Sen. HOYLMAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

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:

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as "Sammy's law".
2 § 2. Paragraphs 26 and 27 of subdivision (a) of section 1642 of the
3 vehicle and traffic law, paragraph 26 as added and paragraph 27 as
4 amended by chapter 248 of the laws of 2014, are amended to read as
5 follows:
6 26. (a) With respect to highways (which term for the purposes of this
7 paragraph shall include private roads open to public motor vehicle traf-
8 fic) in such city, other than state highways maintained by the state on
9 which the department of transportation shall have established higher or
10 lower speed limits than the statutory fifty-five miles per hour speed
11 limit as provided in section sixteen hundred twenty of this title, or on
12 which the department of transportation shall have designated that such
13 city shall not establish any maximum speed limit as provided in section
14 sixteen hundred twenty-four of this title, subject to the limitations
15 imposed by section sixteen hundred eighty-four of this title, establish-
16 ment of maximum speed limits at which vehicles may proceed within such
17 city or within designated areas of such city higher or lower than the
18 fifty-five miles per hour maximum statutory limit. [~~No such speed limit
19 applicable throughout such city or within designated areas of such city
20 shall be established at less than twenty-five miles per hour, except
21 that school speed limits may be established at no less than fifteen
22 miles per hour pursuant to the provisions of section sixteen hundred
23 forty-three of this article.~~]

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

LBD03998-01-1

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

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

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

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

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

38 ~~(iii) a comparison of the aggregate type, number, and severity of
39 accidents reported on streets on which street calming measures and lower
40 speed limits were implemented in the year preceding the implementation
41 of such measures and policies and the year following the implementation
42 of such measures and policies, to the extent this information is main-
43 tained by any agency of the state or the city.]~~

44 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.