

---

---

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**HB 6590**

***AN ACT CONCERNING SPEED LIMITS IN MUNICIPALITIES.***

**SUMMARY**

This bill allows local traffic authorities (LTAs) (see BACKGROUND) to lower speed limits on certain roads under their jurisdiction without approval from the Office of the State Traffic Administration (OSTA).

Existing law allows LTAs to establish speed limits on roads, bridges, and parking areas for ten or more cars that are entirely within the municipality and under its jurisdiction, as long as (1) OSTA approves the speed limits and (2) speed limit signs are erected, as directed by OSTA.

The bill allows LTAs to reduce an OSTA-approved speed limit of 35 mph or lower on such roads, bridges, and parking areas by up to 15 mph. Before doing so, the LTA must (1) hold a public hearing on the proposed lower speed limit and (2) notify OSTA of the lower limit.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

**BACKGROUND**

***Local Traffic Authorities***

As Table 1 shows, the law designates different local bodies or officials to serve as a municipality's traffic authority. The designation depends mainly on whether a municipality has a board of police commissioners (CGS §14-297(6)).

**Table 1: Local Traffic Authorities**

| <i>Jurisdiction</i> | <i>Traffic Authority</i> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
|---------------------|--------------------------|

|   |  |
|---|--|
| City, town, or borough with police commission   | Police Commission  |
| City, town, or borough without commission but with a regularly appointed police force | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City or town manager</li> <li>• Police chief</li> <li>• Police superintendent or any legally elected or appointed official or board</li> <li>• Any official having similar powers and duties</li> </ul> |
| Town with no city or borough with a regularly appointed police force                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of selectmen</li> </ul>   |

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 36 Nay 0 (03/20/2019)