

DOES THE SELECTBOARD HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO REDUCE WEIGHT LIMITS ON BRIDGES?

Yes, the selectboard may lower the weight limits established in 23 V.S.A. § 1392 on town bridges and class 2, 3 and 4 highways. 23 V.S.A. § 1396 (a). The statute provides little guidance regarding what the selectboard should consider when lowering weight limits; however, the legal load limit for bridges cannot be less than 20,000 pounds. 23 V.S.A. § 1396 (c). The process is simple. After the selectboard settles on a lower weight limit for a bridge, the approaches to the bridge must be posted with permanent signage showing the legal load limit. A certified statement indicating the bridge location, legal load limit, and the date of posting must be filed in the town clerk's office. Likewise, a certified statement must be filed in the town clerk's office if a bridge weight restriction is removed.

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