AN ACT Relating to Enforcement of Handicapped Parking Zones on Turnpikes and the Interstate System by State Police.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §1965, sub-§1, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 595, §3, is amended to read:

C. Adopt from time to time and amend bylaws covering its procedure and rules governing use of the turnpike and any of the other services made available in connection with the turnpike; develop and adopt, in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375, rules governing the use of the turnpike and other services; publish those bylaws, rules as publication is necessary or advisable and cause records of its proceedings to be kept;
Sec. 2. 30 MRSA §2151, sub-§2, ¶K, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 587, is amended to read:

K. Providing for the establishment and policing of parking spaces designated for handicapped persons. A municipality with off-street public parking areas may set aside an adequate number of these spaces for use by handicapped persons. A municipality with on-street public parking spaces may set aside an adequate number of these spaces in appropriate locations for use by handicapped persons. There shall be adjacent to and visible from each handicapped parking space a posted sign consisting of a profile view of a wheelchair with occupant in white on a blue background and bearing the following warning: "Handicapped Parking: Special Plate Required. Unauthorized vehicles are subject to a fine." Any vehicle parked in a parking space designated by a municipality as a handicapped parking space that does not bear a special registration plate or placard issued under Title 29, section 252, or a similar plate issued by another state, shall be cited for a penalty not to exceed $25 unless otherwise established by local ordinance. Owners of private off-street parking may enter into agreements with local or county law enforcement agencies for the policing of stalls and spaces dedicated for handicapped persons' vehicles, under which agreements unauthorized vehicles shall be tagged. Where service facilities are established on the Maine Turnpike and on the interstate highway system in Maine, the State Police shall enforce this subsection.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill authorizes the State Police to enforce handicapped parking restrictions on service facilities of the Maine Turnpike and the interstate highway system.