STATE OF MAINE
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Authorize the Increase of the
Maximum Speed Limit to 65 Miles Per Hour.

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

Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §1973, sub-§2, as enacted by PL
1981, c. 595, §3, is amended to read:

2. Speed limit. The authority may by rule pre-
scribe a maximum limitation on the speed of vehicles
using the turnpike, but not exceeding 55 65 miles per
hour or such maximum speed as is permitted on similar
roads in the State, and so limit the speed at any
point or place thereon, and may regulate the volume
and weight of vehicles admitted to the turnpike.
Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §1251, first ¶, as amended by PL 1979, c. 397, §4, is further amended to read:

Except as provided in section 1255 and notwithstanding section 1252, subsection 2, the Commissioner of Transportation, with the consent and approval of the Chief of the Maine State Police, shall have the authority to restrict the maximum rate of speed allowed by law or established by the commissioner with the consent and approval of the Chief of the Maine State Police at any and all points on the highway where, in the opinion of the commissioner, with the consent and approval of the Chief of the Maine State Police, an adjusted speed limit will minimize the danger of accident, promote the free flow of traffic, conserve motor fuel or respond to changes in federal laws, and in each such place shall fix the rate of speed in accordance with his own judgment. The Department of Transportation, with the consent and approval of the Chief of the Maine State Police, shall have authority to increase the speeds of all motor vehicles at any and all points on the highway where, in its opinion, higher speeds are warranted to promote the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, provided that such increased speed shall not exceed 60 miles per hour for vehicles, except on the interstate system or other divided controlled-access highways such increased speed shall not exceed 70 65 miles per hour for vehicles. Any adjustment to the rate of speed established pursuant to this section shall be exempt from the provisions of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375.

This section shall not apply to that portion of the interstate system which is part of the Maine Turnpike.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to increase the maximum permissible speed to 65 M.P.H. on the interstate system in Maine and on the Maine Turnpike.