An Act to Authorize Modifications to Tolls on the Maine Turnpike.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Presented by Representative RICHARDSON of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator BRANNIGAN of Cumberland and
Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, ROWE of Portland, SIMONDS of Cape Elizabeth,
Senator: CONLEY of Cumberland.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §1961, sub-$1, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 793, Pt. A, §6, is amended to read:

1. Legislative findings. The Legislature makes the following findings of fact. The economic and social well-being of the citizens of the State require that the transportation system be developed in a comprehensive manner and depend upon the safety, efficiency and modern functional state of the turnpike. The turnpike should be maintained as a toll facility whether or not there are turnpike bonds outstanding. Toll revenues should be utilized to pay for retirement of any outstanding debt, including interest thereon; to pay for operation and maintenance of the turnpike; to pay for reconstruction of the turnpike; and to repay the Federal Government for grants or loans, the proceeds of which were used for the construction or reconstruction of the turnpike or portions of the turnpike, interchanges and certain interconnecting access roads, but only to the extent that the repayment is required as a result of maintaining tolls on the turnpike.

Sec. 2. Transportation policy. In order to further the transportation policy created by the Sensible Transportation Policy Act, the Legislature intends by this Act to authorize open barrier toll collection systems on the turnpike to the extent the authority believes that the installation of toll collection systems would be financially feasible and consistent with the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, chapter 24. This measure may not impair the rights of present or future bondholders under any existing indenture or resolution for the issuance of turnpike authority bonds or other obligations.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to allow the Maine Turnpike Authority and the Department of Transportation to respond to new initiatives in transportation planning.