DATE: April 25, 1995

TRANSPORTATION

Reported by: Senator STEVENS of Androscoggin for the Committee.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
117TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 139, L.D. 325, Bill, "An Act to Revise the Maine Turnpike Authority's Powers with Respect to Commuter Tolls"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, traffic on the Maine Turnpike has increased 14% since 1991; and

Whereas, congestion pricing may have potential as a demand management strategy; and

Whereas, the Sensible Transportation Policy Act requires that alternatives be evaluated prior to increasing highway capacity through road building; and

Whereas, it is in the public's interest to begin a congestion pricing study in the summer of 1995; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §1973, sub-§4, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 595, §3, is amended to read:

A. The authority shall establish a system of commuter discounts to provide passenger vehicles with reduced rates which rates shall not exceed 50% of the normal passenger vehicle toll in effect on June 1, 1981, except that after July 1, 1985, commuter fares may be adjusted generally proportionately to any other fare adjustments.

Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §1973, sub-§4, ¶A-1 is enacted to read:

A-1. Notwithstanding paragraph A, for the period beginning on the effective date of this paragraph and ending on April 1, 1997, the authority may establish a system of variable rate commuter discounts. This paragraph is repealed on April 1, 1997.

Sec. 3. Reports on congestion pricing studies. The Maine Turnpike Authority shall submit an interim report on the congestion pricing studies to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters no later than January 15, 1996. The interim report must describe the study design, including adjustments to fees, fares and tolls by class of vehicle, time of day, week or year, number of passengers or any other factor on which an adjustment is based. The interim report must describe the segments of the turnpike on which the study has been or will be implemented.

The Maine Turnpike Authority shall submit a final report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters no later than January 15, 1997 on congestion pricing studies conducted in 1995 and 1996. The final report must include conclusions from the study.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This amendment replaces the original bill. It provides the Maine Turnpike Authority with greater flexibility in setting its commuter discount rates for a period of 2 years. It requires the authority to report back to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters on
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congestion pricing studies conducted during that period. This amendment also adds an emergency preamble and an emergency clause to the bill.