

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1020

S.P. 437

In Senate, March 13, 2025

**An Act to Repeal the Laws Providing for the Construction of a
Connector to Gorham and to Resell Land Taken Under Those Laws
to Previous Property Owners**

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on March 12, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator: CARNEY of Cumberland, Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, MURPHY of Scarborough, OSHER of Orono, SATO of Gorham, TERRY of Gorham, WARREN of Scarborough.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §1965, sub-§1, ¶D-2,** as enacted by PL 2017, c. 68, §2, is
3 repealed.

4 **Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §1965-C,** as enacted by PL 2017, c. 68, §3, is repealed.

5 **Sec. 3. 23 MRSA §1968, sub-§2-D,** as enacted by PL 2017, c. 68, §4, is repealed.

6 **Sec. 4. Return property purchased for connector to Gorham.** The Maine
7 Turnpike Authority shall sell any property acquired for the construction of a connector in
8 Cumberland County from Route 114 in South Gorham to an interchange on the turnpike to
9 the prior property owner, or the prior property owner's heirs, assigns or successors, at the
10 same amount for which the authority purchased the land. If the Maine Turnpike Authority
11 is not able to sell the land to the prior property owner or the prior property owner's heirs,
12 assigns or successors within a year of enactment of this Act, the Maine Turnpike Authority
13 shall transfer the land for no consideration to the municipality in which it is located.

14 If the municipality decides it does not want the property, the municipality shall donate
15 the property to a local land trust for no consideration. If the local land trust does not wish
16 to accept the land, the municipality may offer the land for sale at a public auction.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill repeals the laws that authorize the Maine Turnpike Authority to construct a
19 connector to Gorham. It requires the Maine Turnpike Authority to resell the land purchased
20 for the construction of the connector to the previous property owner or the previous
21 property owner's heirs, assigns or successors. If the previous property owner or the heirs,
22 assigns or successors of the previous property owner do not want the land, the bill requires
23 the Maine Turnpike Authority to transfer the land at no cost to the municipality in which
24 the property is located. The bill stipulates the municipality must donate the land to a local
25 land trust if the municipality does not want the land. If the local land trust does not want
26 the land, the municipality may offer the land for sale at a public auction.