

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1562

H.P. 1020

House of Representatives, April 10, 2025

An Act Regarding Municipal Road Standards

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MCINTYRE of Lowell.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, DRINKWATER of Milford,
LAJOIE of Lewiston.

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

Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §3651, first ¶, as amended by PL 1977, c. 363, §5, is further amended to read:

Highways, town ways and streets legally established shall must be opened and kept in repair so as to be safe and convenient for travelers with motor vehicles in accordance with standards established by the Department of Transportation, which must include standards for a petition process if a town liable to maintain a highway, town way or street unreasonably neglects to keep it in repair. In default thereof, those liable may be indicted, convicted and a reasonable fine imposed therefor. In determining whether a highway, town way or street is kept in repair so as to be safe and convenient, differences in roadway surface and the season of the year must be taken into consideration.

Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §3652 is repealed.

Sec. 3. 23 MRSA §3653 is repealed.

Sec. 4. 23 MRSA §3654 is repealed.

SUMMARY

This bill amends the provision of law that requires highways, town ways and streets legally established be opened and kept in repair so as to be safe and convenient for travelers with motor vehicles to require that this be done in accordance with standards established by the Department of Transportation. It provides that in determining whether highways, town ways and streets are kept in repair so as to be safe and convenient, differences in roadway surface and the season of the year must be taken into consideration. It repeals the provision of law that provides for a petition process involving the county commissioners when a town liable to maintain a way unreasonably neglects to keep it in repair and instead provides for an updated petition process in accordance with standards established by the department.