

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1647

H. P. 1273

House of Representatives, March 27, 1973

Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. LaPointe of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Relating to the Establishment and Funding of Bikeways.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 23, c. 6, additional. Title 23 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter 6 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 6

BIKEWAYS

§ 261. Definition

A bikeway is described and defined as an independent surface trail associated or detached from an existing thoroughfare, road or highway, publicly owned and designated or signed for use as a bicycle route.

Bikeways are not required to be established under this chapter:

1. Where the establishment of said bikeways would be contrary to public safety;
2. Such bikeways would be excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use, or
3. Where the sparsity of population, other available ways or other factors indicate an absence of any need for such bikeways.

§ 262. Establishment of bikeways

Administration of these bikeways may be established wherever a highway road, street or right-of-way, including painting and signing of bikeways, is being constructed, reconstructed or available.

§ 263. State aid

Municipalities shall be reimbursed by the State for construction costs of bikeways, a sum equal to 40% of total project cost. These moneys may be used as a state share for obtaining matching moneys from appropriate federal funds. Municipalities shall furnish plans and specifications relating to the bikeway proposal in order to qualify for consideration. Other state funds shall not be applicable to this chapter.

The purpose of this chapter is to provide financial assistance to municipalities wishing to establish bicycle routes or trails, associated with existing public roadways or rights-of-way, or both, thus providing needed resources and encouragement for a wise use of land for badly needed recreation facilities.

§ 264. Powers

The Parks and Recreation Department, through the Community Recreation Division, shall provide municipalities guidelines and information dealing with bicycle way development upon request. All plans for new construction, reconstruction or improvements for bikeway development adjacent or attached or separate from public roads shall be reviewed by the Department of Transportation in order to gain compliance with state and federal law.

Plans for any bikeway are subject to the approval of both the Parks and Recreation Department, Community Recreation Division, and with review by the Department of Transportation and with review by the Department of Public Safety. The Parks and Recreation Department, Community Recreation Division, shall recommend construction standards for bikeways and shall provide a uniform system of signing bikeways which shall apply to routes, lanes and ways with the funds provided.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of \$500,000 for the construction of bikeways in the State of Maine. These moneys shall be deposited to the Parks and Recreation Department and are to be administered by the Community Recreation Division of that department, and shall constitute a continuous carrying account. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1973-74	1974-75
PARKS AND RECREATION, DEPARTMENT OF		
All Other	\$250,000	\$250,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

Bikeways provide opportunities to complement existing modes of transportation by linking communities, schools, parks and places of employment and reduce congestion in areas between various forms of travel occurring on streets and highways. Bikeways create additional commuting and recreation opportunities within urban, suburban and rural areas.

The mode of funding in this appropriation calls for developing the potentials of local, state and federal resources.