

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 905

H. P. 725

House of Representatives, March 5, 1975

Referred to the Committee on Transportation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Snow of Falmouth.

Cosponsor: Mr. LaPointe of Portland.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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**AN ACT** to Establish the Construction of Bikeways as a Responsibility of the Department of Transportation and to Provide Funding Therefor.

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

Sec. 1. 23 MRSA c. 10 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 10

BIKEWAYS

§ 611. Definition

For the purposes of this chapter, a bikeway is defined as a vehicle way, paved or unpaved, upon which bicycles, unicycles or other man-powered vehicles may be pedaled. It may be part of a road or highway, or it may be adjacent to a road or highway, or it may be otherwise located.

§ 612. Separated from way of motor vehicles

If constructed as part of a highway or adjacent to it, any bikeway shall be clearly separated from the part used by motor-powered vehicles by appropriate barriers or by lines painted to so separate the bikeway from the part used by motor driven vehicles. Such lines shall be at least 6 inches in width and brightly painted.

§ 613. Funding

The department shall expend on bikeways at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1% of all revenue received by the State from the registration of motor vehicles and other land

vehicles and the licensing of operators thereof, from the tax imposed on internal combustion engine fuel, from fines, forfeitures and costs accruing to the State under Title 29, section 2302 and from permits granted by the department to use highways. Such funds may be matched or mixed with federal, county or municipal funds on a matching basis in any manner not prohibited by statute. Such funds may be used for bikeways adjacent to any federal, state or state-aid highway.

Sec. 2. 23 MRSA § 1653, sub-§ 6 is amended to read:

6. **Highways, bridges and bikeways.** For the improvement, construction and maintenance of highways ~~and~~, bridges **and bikeways as defined in section 611.**

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The popularity of bicycles and other man-powered vehicles, for both basic transportation and recreation, has increased materially in the past few years. As the price of fuel increases and as fuel becomes less available, the importance of ways for bicycles as an alternate means of transportation becomes greater. Many states have begun to create bikeways not only for this reason, but also to provide sought-after healthful recreational facilities.