

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1075

H. P. 869

House of Representatives, March 6, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Laffin of Westbrook.

Cosponsors: Mr. Cunningham of New Gloucester and Mr. Diamond of Windham.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Revise the Method of Collection of Tolls on the Maine Turnpike**

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

**Sec. 1.** 23 MRSA § 331, sub-§ 1, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 658, § 2, is repealed.

**Sec. 2.** 23 MRSA § 332, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 658, § 2, is repealed.

**Sec. 3.** 23 MRSA § 335, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 658, § 2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**§ 335. Toll facilities**

**Upon termination of the Maine Turnpike Authority, the Department of Transportation shall continue to operate and maintain the turnpike as a toll highway using toll facilities at the locations as they existed on January 1, 1979. The department shall not remove or relocate those toll facilities.**

**Sec. 4.** 23 MRSA § 337, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 658, § 2, is repealed.

**Sec. 5.** 23 MRSA § 337-A is enacted to read:

**§ 337-A. Revenues**

**All tolls collected from Maine Turnpike toll facilities and all other revenues derived from Maine Turnpike operations after the dissolution of the Maine Turnpike Authority shall be deposited with the Treasurer of State in a special account to repay to the Federal Government any financial obligation of the State to the United States resulting from the maintenance of tolls on the Maine Turnpike. After the final payment of all such obligations, all tolls and revenues and any balance in the special account shall be deposited in the General Fund of the State.**

**Sec. 6. 23 MRSA § 338, last sentence, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 658, § 2, is repealed.**

**Sec. 7. P&SL 1941, c. 69, § 16, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 658, § 9, is amended to read:**

**Sec. 16. Termination of the authority.** When all bonds and the interest thereon have been paid or a sufficient amount of the payment of all bonds and the interest to maturity thereon shall have been set aside in trust for the benefit of the bondholders and shall continue to be held for that purpose, and when sufficient funds have been paid to the Maine State Retirement System to finance in full the accrued benefits for all employees of the authority, the authority shall become dissolved and the turnpike, its leases, rights, easements, franchises, lands and properties shall become the property of the State of Maine and all revenue therefrom become payable to the ~~Treasurer of State for the turnpike fund of this State~~ **General Fund**, and the turnpike shall thereafter be maintained and operated as a toll highway by the Department of Transportation, and all machinery, equipment and other property belonging to the authority appertaining to the maintenance and operation of the turnpike shall be vested in the Department of Transportation for use as provided by the Revised Statutes, Title 23, chapter 8.

**Sec. 8. Effective date.** Sections 1 to 5 of this Act shall become effective upon the date of repayment of all bonds and interest as provided in P&SL 1941, c. 69, § 15, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 658, § 8.

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill is intended to provide that, after the dissolution of the Maine Turnpike Authority, which is expected to occur about 1981 when all bonds are paid, the current method of toll collection will remain in place for the turnpike. Barrier tolls, authorized by the Legislature in 1977, will not be permitted and the present method of toll collection will be retained, since the present toll facilities provide an adequate and equitable method of assessing tolls for the turnpike. The bill also provides that all future revenues will go to the General Fund to be appropriated by the Legislature when needed. Income will not be dedicated for any one purpose but may be allocated, as other General Fund revenues, to meet public priorities established by the Legislature.