MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1	L.D. 734
2	(Filing No. H- 212)
3 4 5 6	STATE OF MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 113TH LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR SESSION
7 8 9	COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 547, L.D. 734, Bill, "AN ACT to Authorize the Increase of the Maximum Speed Limit to 65 Miles Per Hour."
10 11	Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:
12 13 14	' Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
15 16 17	Whereas, a 55 m.p.h. speed limit was federally imposed to combat shortages and rising prices during the threat of the 1973 Arab oil embargo; and
18 19 20 21	Whereas, that serious conservation effort accomplished its purpose and now should be modified to meet a more realistic level of compliance for modern day travel; and
22 23 24 25	Whereas, there has been improved technology in auto safety and highway construction since 1973 so that Maine motorists can drive safely and comfortably at 65 m.p.h. on rural interstate highways; and
26 27 28 29	Whereas, recent research conducted by the Federal Highway Administration indicates that the speed of travel is not the most critical factor in determining safety on the nation's major thoroughfares; and
30 31 32	Whereas, there is widespread public contempt for the present speed limit on rural interstate highways of this State; and
33 34 35	Whereas, the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1987 permits the speed limit to be raised on the rural interstate highways of this State to 65 m.p.h.; and

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2 3 4 5	these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preser- vation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,'
7 8	Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the statement of fact the following:
9 10	'Sec. 3. 29 MRSA \$1252, sub-\$5 is enacted to read:
11 12 13 14 15	5. Maine Turnpike and interstate highways. Any person who operates a motor vehicle on the Maine Turnpike or the Interstate Highway System at a speed which exceeds the posted speed of 65 miles per hour commits a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of not less than \$50.
17 18 19	Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.
20	FISCAL NOTE
21 22 23 24 25	Assuming that speeding infractions remain constant, enactment of this legislation could result in an increase in revenue to the General Fund. The exact amount of a projected revenue increase cannot be determined at this time.'

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1 STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this amendment is to add an emergency preamble, emergency clause, a fiscal note and to make the fine for traveling in excess of 65 m.p.h. on the Maine Turnpike or interstate system punishable by a fine of not less than \$50.

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Reported by Report A of the Committee on Transportation Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House 6/1/87 (Filing No. H-212)