

L.D. 734

(Filing No. S-129)

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STATE OF MAINE SENATE 113TH LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR SESSION

7 SENATE AMENDMENT " $_B$ " to H.P. 547, L.D. 734, Bill, "AN ACT to Authorize the Increase of the Maxi-8 mum Speed Limit to 65 Miles Per Hour." 9

10 Amend the bill by inserting after the title and 11 before the enacting clause the following:

12 'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legis-13 lature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and 14

15 Whereas, a 55 m.p.h. speed limit was federally 16 imposed to combat shortages and rising prices during 17 the threat of the 1973 Arab oil embargo; and

18 Whereas, that serious conservation effort accom-19 plished its purpose and now should be modified to meet a more realistic level of compliance for modern 20 21 day travel; and

22 Whereas, there has been improved technology in 23 auto safety and highway construction since 1973 so 24 that Maine motorists can drive safely and comfortably 25 at 65 m.p.h. on rural interstate highways; and

26 Whereas, recent research conducted by the Federal 27 Highway Administration indicates that the speed of 28 travel is not the most critical factor in determining 29 safety on the nation's major thoroughfares; and

Whereas, there is widespread public contempt for the present speed limit on rural interstate highways 30 31 32 of this State; and

33 Whereas, the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1987 per-34 mits the speed limit to be raised on the rural inter-35 state highways of this State to 65 m.p.h.; and

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1 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, 2 these facts create an emergency within the meaning of 3 the Constitution of Maine and require the following 4 legislation as immediately necessary for the preser-5 vation of the public peace, health and safety; now, 6 therefore,'

7 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end 8 before the statement of fact the following:

9 'Sec. 3. 29 MRSA §1252, sub-§5 is enacted to 10 read:

11 5. Maine Turnpike and interstate highways. Any 12 person who operates a motor vehicle on the Maine 13 Turnpike or the Interstate Highway System at a speed 14 which exceeds the posted speed of 65 miles per hour 15 commits a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of 16 not less than \$50.

17 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited 18 in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when ap-19 proved.

FISCAL NOTE

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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SENATE AMENDMENT	. "	в"	to	H.P.	547,	L.D.	734
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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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Sen. Cahili SPONSORED BY: Contect Coll 8 9

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