

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 734

H.P. 547 House of Representatives, March 12, 1987  
Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested  
and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk  
Presented by Representative BOTT of Orono.  
Cosponsored by Representatives SHELTRA of Biddeford,  
McGOWAN of Canaan, and Senator CAHILL of Sagadahoc.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN

1 AN ACT to Authorize the Increase of the  
2 Maximum Speed Limit to 65 Miles Per  
3 Hour.  
4

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

7 Sec. 1. 23 MRSa §1973, sub-§2, as enacted by PL  
8 1981, c. 595, §3, is amended to read:

9 2. Speed limit. The authority may by rule pre-  
10 scribe a maximum limitation on the speed of vehicles  
11 using the turnpike, but not exceeding 55 65 miles per  
12 hour or such maximum speed as is permitted on similar  
13 roads in the State, and so limit the speed at any  
14 point or place thereon, and may regulate the volume  
15 and weight of vehicles admitted to the turnpike.

MAINE STATE POLICE

1        **Sec. 2. 29 MRSA §1251, first ¶, as amended by PL**  
2        **1979, c. 397, §4, is further amended to read:**

3        Except as provided in section 1255 and notwith-  
4        standing section 1252, subsection 2, the Commissioner  
5        of Transportation, with the consent and approval of  
6        the Chief of the Maine State Police, shall have the  
7        authority to restrict the maximum rate of speed al-  
8        lowed by law or established by the commissioner with  
9        the consent and approval of the Chief of the Maine  
10       State Police at any and all points on the highway  
11       where in the opinion of the commissioner, with the  
12       consent and approval of the Chief of the Maine State  
13       Police, an adjusted speed limit will minimize the  
14       danger of accident, promote the free flow of traffic,  
15       conserve motor fuel or respond to changes in federal  
16       laws, and in each such place shall fix the rate of  
17       speed in accordance with his own judgment. The De-  
18       partment of Transportation, with the consent and ap-  
19       proval of the Chief of the Maine State Police, shall  
20       have authority to increase the speeds of all motor  
21       vehicles at any and all points on the highway where,  
22       in its opinion, higher speeds are warranted to pro-  
23       mote the normal and reasonable movement of traffic,  
24       provided that such increased speed shall not exceed  
25       60 miles per hour for vehicles, except on the inter-  
26       state system or other divided controlled-access high-  
27       ways such increased speed shall not exceed 70 65  
28       miles per hour for vehicles. Any adjustment to the  
29       rate of speed established pursuant to this section  
30       shall be exempt from the provisions of the Maine Ad-  
31       ministrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375.  
32       This section shall not apply to that portion of the  
33       interstate system which is part of the Maine Turn-  
34       pike.

35    **STATEMENT OF FACT**

36       The purpose of this bill is to increase the maxi-  
37       mum permissible speed to 65 M.P.H. on the interstate  
38       system in Maine and on the Maine Turnpike.

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