

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1871

DATE: March 25, 1996

(Filing No. S- 519)

TRANSPORTATION

Reported by: Senator PARADIS of Aroostook for the Committee.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE SENATE 117TH LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A " to S.P. 759, L.D. 1871, Bill, "An Act to Amend the Maine Turnpike Authority's Budget for Calendar Year 1996"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Amend the Maine Turnpike Authority's Budget for Calendar Year 1996, to Clarify the Maine Turnpike Authority's Budget Process and to Facilitate the Evaluation of Automated Toll Collection'

Further amend the bill by inserting before section 1 the following:

'Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §1961, sub-§6, as amended by PL 1993, c. 563, §1, is further amended to read:

6. Appropriation. On or before January 31st of each year, the authority shall present to each regular session of the Legislature for its approval the--operating a budget for the operating expenses of the authority for the calendar year that begins after the adjournment of that regular session and shall present to each regular session of the Legislature for informational purposes a statement of the revenues necessary for capital expenditures and reserves, and to meet the requirements of any resolution authorizing bonds of the authority during that calendar year, including debt service and the maintenance of reserves for debt service and reserve maintenance. The authority may only make--expenditures pay operating expenses in accordance with allocations approved by the Legislature or as necessary to

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satisfy the requirements of any resolution authorizing bonds of the authority. The operating surplus must be transferred to the Department of Transportation and expended in accordance with allocations approved by the Legislature.

Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §1964, sub-§6-A, as amended by PL 1995, c. 504, Pt. C, §3, is further amended to read:

6-A. Operating surplus. "Operating surplus" means the total annual operating revenues of the Maine Turnpike Authority, after money has been put aside to pay the reasonable operating expenses, to pay or to reserve for capital expenditures and to meet the requirements of any resolution authorizing bonds of the Maine Turnpike Authority, including any amounts pledged to secure obligations issued pursuant to section 1968, subsection 2-A or to pay principal, interest or premium, if any, with respect to these obligations.

Sec. 3. 23 MRSA §1965-A, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 341, §2, is amended to read:

A. ~~Convert~~ Complete an evaluation of the conversion of the turnpike toll collection system to an automated electronic system designed to move traffic more efficiently through toll plazas;

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the emergency clause the following:

'Sec. 3. Legislative intent. Those sections of this bill that amend the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1962, subsection 6 and Title 23, section 1964, subsection 6-A clarify the intent of Initiated Bill 1991, chapter 1, to have the Legislature approve the Maine Turnpike Authority's operating budget and confirm the authority's practice of submitting an operating budget for approval and a statement on capital expenditures and debt service for informational purposes.

Sec. 4. Retroactivity. Those sections of this Act that amend the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1961, subsection 6 and section 1964, subsection 6-A apply retroactively to December 20, 1991.'

Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

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

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FISCAL NOTE

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This bill allocates an additional \$4,800,000 in the Fare Collection program of the Maine Turnpike Authority due to the delay in implementing an automated electronic toll system. This will not affect State Government expenditures or revenues.'

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This amendment makes it clear that legislative approval is not required for capital expenditures by the Maine Turnpike Authority or for expenditures necessary to satisfy requirements of bond resolutions. Legislative approval is required for the authority's operating budget. This amendment also removes the requirement that the turnpike convert to an automated toll collection system prior to completing its alternatives evaluation. The authority is still required to evaluate the conversion to an automated system.

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