

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 489

S.P. 160

In Senate, January 28, 1997

An Act Relative to the Improvement of the Maine Turnpike Authority.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MacKINNON of York.
Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of York, Representatives: MacDOUGALL of North
Berwick, WHEELER of Eliot, WRIGHT of Berwick.

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

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

2. Review of transportation policy. Upon completing the evaluation required under subsection 1, the authority shall review the alternatives to determine if the alternatives can meet the identified transportation deficiency or need in a safe manner at a reasonable cost with available technology. If, based on the evaluation, the authority finds that the alternatives do not meet the identified deficiency or need and also finds that the requirements under section 73, subsection 3, paragraphs A, C, D, E, F and G are met:

A. A final license, permit, or approval necessary for the widening or expansion of the turnpike may be issued by the appropriate state agency; and

B. ~~The alternative-evaluation-and-preference~~ requirements of section 73 and rules adopted pursuant to section 73 are considered satisfied.

Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §1968, sub-§2-B is enacted to read:

2-B. Bonds for widening of turnpike. In addition to bonds outstanding pursuant to subsections 1, 2 and 2-A, the authority may provide by resolution from time to time for the issuance of turnpike revenue bonds, including notes or other evidences of indebtedness or obligations defined to be bonds under this chapter, but not exceeding \$100,000,000 in principal amount at any one time outstanding exclusive of refundings, to pay the cost or a portion of the cost of constructing all or a portion of a 3rd travel lane for each direction of travel on the turnpike from Exit 1 to, and including, Exit 6-A, to the extent authorized pursuant to section 1965, subsection 1, paragraph D, and for the construction or reconstruction of overpasses, bridges, interchanges, tunnels, underpasses and toll facilities in connection with the addition of the lane or lanes.

SUMMARY

This bill increases the amount of bonds the Maine Turnpike Authority may issue in connection with a widening of the turnpike from Exit 1 to Exit 6-A, if all or a portion of a project is approved under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, sections 1965 and 1965-A. The bill also clarifies the Maine Turnpike Authority's obligations with respect to other aspects of transportation planning that pertain to such a project.