

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 647

S.P. 225

In Senate, January 26, 1999

**An Act to Eliminate Tolls from the Maine Turnpike, Abolish the  
Turnpike Authority and Adjust Taxes on Automotive Fuel.**

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MILLS of Somerset.

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

4 **CONCEPT DRAFT**  
6 **SUMMARY**

8 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

10 This bill proposes to make the following changes in transportation funding:

12 1. Merge the Maine Turnpike Authority into the Maine  
14 Department of Transportation and abolish the Maine Turnpike Authority when its debts are paid;

16 2. Eliminate tolls on the Maine Turnpike effective October  
18 1, 2002;

20 3. Require the State to issue its own general obligation  
22 highway bonds to fund the recall and payment of the balances due on all outstanding Maine Turnpike bonds; and

24 4. Fund the new highway bonds by increasing the gas tax in  
26 York, Cumberland, Androscoggin and Kennebec Counties by 5 cents per gallon and in all other counties by 4 cents per gallon. The one cent differential would be in place for 10 years until the new bonds are paid.

28 This bill would have to be submitted to referendum in June  
30 2000, with the provisions to take effect October 1, 2002.