

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 643

H.P. 503

House of Representatives, February 8, 2001

An Act to Allow Municipalities to Lower Certain Speed Limits.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative MARLEY of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator O'GARA of Cumberland and
Representatives: BUNKER of Kossuth Township, COLLINS of Wells, DUNLAP of Old
Town, LaVERDIERE of Wilton, McKENNEY of Cumberland, PARADIS of Frenchville,
WHEELER of Bridgewater, WHEELER of Eliot.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2075, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 1993, c.
683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

6 **3. Municipal authority.** A Except as provided in this
8 subsection, a municipality may not alter a speed limit or enact
or enforce a regulation contrary to this Title. A municipality
may:

10 A. Regulate traffic by means of signal devices or other
12 appropriate methods on a way on which traffic is heavy or
continuous;

14 B. Limit traffic to one-way traffic on a way, subject to
16 Title 23, section 1351;

18 C. Regulate speed of vehicles in public parks by erecting
at all entrances to the park adequate signs giving notice of
20 the special speed regulations; and

22 D. With the approval of the Department of Transportation
and the Chief of the Maine State Police, increase the speed
24 limit on through ways by erecting adequate signs giving
notice of the speed limit; and

26 E. Decrease the speed limit in an area that has a speed
28 limit of 25 miles per hour to 15 miles per hour. The
30 municipality may decrease the speed limit only after a
32 public hearing and upon a vote of the municipal officers. A
34 municipality that decreases a speed limit pursuant to this
paragraph shall inform the Department of Transportation in
writing of the reduction within 10 days of the vote reducing
the speed limit.

36 **SUMMARY**

38 Current law prohibits a municipality from changing a speed
40 limit on a road within the municipality except with the approval
of the Department of Transportation and the Chief of the State
42 Police.

44 This bill allows a municipality, after a public hearing and
vote of the municipal officers, to decrease the speed limit in a
46 25-miles-per-hour zone to 15 miles per hour.