

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 527

H.P. 332

House of Representatives, February 9, 2023

An Act to Allow Municipalities to Create Bicycle and Pedestrian Zones with Reduced Speed Limits

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ANKELES of Brunswick.
Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and
Representatives: CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, FAY of Raymond, GOLEK of Harpswell,
JAUCH of Topsham, Senators: CARNEY of Cumberland, DAUGHTRY of Cumberland,
DUSON of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2075, sub-§3, ¶E**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 92, §3, is
3 further amended by amending the 4th blocked paragraph to read:

4 The Department of Transportation may require a municipality with a population of
5 5,000 or more as measured by the latest decennial United States census that has not
6 provided written notice to the department that the municipality will set speed limits in
7 accordance with this paragraph to provide the department with all data necessary to set
8 such speed limits. The nature, extent and form of that data must be acceptable to the
9 department and may include, without limitation, the reason for the request, length and
10 location of the proposed speed zone, road width, number of driveways in that zone,
11 traffic volume, posted speed, prevailing speed as measured by radar, accident history
12 and speed enforcement efforts; ~~and~~

13 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2075, sub-§3, ¶F**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 92, §4, is
14 amended to read:

15 F. With the approval of the Department of Transportation and the Chief of the State
16 Police, and in accordance with the latest edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic
17 Control Devices published by the Federal Highway Administration, designate a school
18 zone to which the speed limits in section 2074, subsection 1, paragraph A apply; and

19 **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2075, sub-§3, ¶G** is enacted to read:

20 G. Create a bicycle and pedestrian zone without conducting a speed study in a
21 downtown, as defined in Title 30-A, section 4301, subsection 5-A, where the posted
22 speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less and where not more than 6,000 motor vehicles
23 per day pass through the area and set the speed limit in that zone at 25 miles per hour.

24 In order to determine whether or not to create a bicycle and pedestrian zone, the
25 municipality shall consult with a law enforcement agency regarding the number of
26 speeding violations, complaints about speeding motor vehicles, accidents and other
27 hazards present in the proposed bicycle and pedestrian zone.

28 A municipality may deploy traffic calming measures in the bicycle and pedestrian
29 zone.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill would allow municipalities to create bicycle and pedestrian zones in which
32 the speed limit is 25 miles per hour.