

Date:

(Filing No. S-)

TRANSPORTATION

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

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 522, L.D. 1292, “An Act to Codify the Maine Turnpike Authority's Contributions to the Highway Fund with Regard to the Sensible Transportation Policy Act”

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

'Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Create a Plan to Integrate the Maine Turnpike Authority Within the Department of Transportation'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Preamble. Whereas, the Maine Turnpike is the State's most important transportation connection to the rest of the United States; and

Whereas, the State has forgone hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding for Interstate 95 from Kittery to Augusta, as this highway is not eligible for federal subsidy; and

Whereas, other states have saved significant resources by eliminating quasi-governmental turnpike authorities with redundant and duplicative staffs, infrastructure and services; and

Whereas, the Maine Turnpike Authority has suffered from waste, fraud and abuse of its bonding and spending authority, the costs of which are borne by residents of this State via toll collections by the Maine Turnpike Authority; and

Whereas, the tolls on the Maine Turnpike have been raised to pay for unnecessary spending projects when other, higher priority projects elsewhere in the State have been unfunded and Highway Fund revenues have fallen significantly; and

Whereas, this resolve establishes a working group to oversee a study of the costs and benefits of and to create a plan for the integration of the Maine Turnpike Authority within the Department of Transportation; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Working group established. Resolved: That the Working Group on the Reorganization of the Maine Turnpike Authority, referred to in this resolve as "the working

group," is established to create a plan for the integration of the Maine Turnpike Authority within the Department of Transportation.

Sec. 2. Working group membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the working group consists of 9 members as follows:

1. One member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;
2. One member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
3. One member of the public, appointed by the President of the Senate;
4. One member of the public, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
5. One member with bond counsel experience, appointed by the Treasurer of State;
6. Two members of the public with multimodal transportation expertise, appointed jointly by the chairs of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation;
7. The Commissioner of Transportation; and
8. The chair of the board of directors of the Maine Turnpike Authority.

Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the Senate member is the Senate chair and the House of Representatives member is the House chair of the working group.

Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of working group. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the working group. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the working group to meet and conduct its business.

Sec. 5. Examination. Resolved: That the working group shall examine:

1. Information on federal funding forgone due to the Maine Turnpike's ineligibility for federal subsidy;
2. Estimates of the cost savings from eliminating redundant positions and functions and wasteful spending on inefficient and duplicative efforts and projects by the parallel and overlapping functions of the Maine Turnpike Authority and the Department of Transportation;
3. Information on models for management of toll highway systems without a quasi-governmental turnpike authority, such as those in New Hampshire and Massachusetts and elsewhere; and
4. Models and options for reallocating toll revenues above what is required for debt service, as well as maintenance of the Maine Turnpike at a standard similar to other limited-access highways in this State.

Sec. 6. Plan. Resolved: That, based on the information collected pursuant to section 5, the working group shall create a plan for the integration of the Maine Turnpike

Authority within the Department of Transportation, referred to in this resolve as "the plan," which must:

1. Keep the legal structures, board of directors and toll collection and payments functions of the Maine Turnpike Authority in place only to complete its bond repayment obligations and provide a target date to complete those payments;

2. Include a strategy to integrate the staff and decision-making, safety, maintenance and other essential operational functions of the Maine Turnpike Authority into the Department of Transportation over a period of one year from adoption of the plan;

3. Assess the costs and benefits associated with the plan; and

4. Include draft language for statutory changes to implement the plan.

Sec. 7. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Maine Turnpike Authority and the Department of Transportation shall provide necessary staffing services to the working group.

Sec. 8. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 31, 2026, the working group shall submit a report that includes the plan and suggested legislation to the Office of the Governor, the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation and the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. The Joint Standing Committee on Transportation may report out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Sec. 9. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF
Highway and Bridge Capital 0406**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for an investment grade review and consulting fees to perform the review.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$750,000	\$0
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$750,000	\$0

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

SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, replaces the bill with a resolve establishing the Working Group on the Reorganization of the Maine Turnpike Authority to create a plan for the integration of the Maine Turnpike Authority within the Department of Transportation. The working group must submit a report that includes its plan and suggested legislation to the Office of the Governor, the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation and the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs no later than January 31, 2026. The Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 522, L.D. 1292

1 may report out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd
2 Legislature.

3 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
4 **(See attached)**