



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2018

---

Legislative Document

No. 1779

---

H.P. 1225

House of Representatives, January 9, 2018

**An Act To Increase Safety, Ensure Efficient Operation and Improve  
Traffic Flow on the Maine Turnpike by Requiring All-electronic  
Toll Collection at New and Reconstructed Toll Facilities**

(EMERGENCY)

---

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BLUME of York.  
Cosponsored by Senator HILL of York and  
Representatives: ESPLING of New Gloucester, FECTEAU of Biddeford, HARLOW of  
Portland, HYMANSON of York, LAWRENCE of Eliot, RILEY of Jay, RYKERSON of  
Kittery, SANBORN of Portland.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas**, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not  
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas**, the Maine Turnpike Authority is planning to build a new toll facility in  
4 the Town of York at a cost of \$41,000,000 to replace the existing toll facility at the  
5 southern gateway to and from Maine without fully implementing an all-electronic tolling  
6 system; and

7 **Whereas**, the design of such a toll facility would soon be obsolete due to the rapid  
8 advances in electronic tolling methods; and

9 **Whereas**, the estimated cost for construction of a simple overhead gantry that  
10 incorporates all-electronic toll collection is much less at \$5,000,000, and an all-electronic  
11 toll facility will be safer to drive through and be far less expensive to operate over the life  
12 of the currently proposed toll facility; and

13 **Whereas**, this legislation requires newly constructed and reconstructed toll facilities  
14 to use an all-electronic tolling system; and

15 **Whereas**, due to the imminent nature of the Maine Turnpike Authority's proposed  
16 reconstruction of arguably the busiest toll facility in the State, this requirement needs to  
17 take effect prior to the expiration of the 90-day period; and

18 **Whereas**, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within  
19 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as  
20 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
21 therefore,

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

23 **Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §1966, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

24 **6. Reconstruction or construction of toll facility.** Notwithstanding any provision  
25 of section 1973, subsection 3 to the contrary, when the authority reconstructs an existing  
26 turnpike toll facility or constructs a new turnpike toll facility, the authority shall install  
27 and implement only an electronic toll collection system for that reconstructed or new toll  
28 facility. For purposes of this subsection, "electronic toll collection system" means a  
29 system of collecting tolls or other charges by electronic means.

30 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this  
31 legislation takes effect when approved.

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill requires the Maine Turnpike Authority to install and implement only an  
34 electronic toll collection system, also known as an all-electronic tolling system, for any  
35 reconstructed or newly constructed toll facility on the turnpike.