



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1634

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S.P. 651

In Senate, April 12, 2023

**An Act to Grant Municipalities the Authority to Set Certain Lower  
Motor Vehicle Speed Limits Without a Department of  
Transportation Speed Study**

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.  
Cosponsored by Senators: CHIPMAN of Cumberland, DAUGHTRY of Cumberland,  
Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, ZAGER of Portland, ZEIGLER of Montville.

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 2nd blocked paragraph to read:

4 Unless otherwise approved as provided in paragraph D or G, speed limits set by a  
5 municipality must be in 5-mile-per-hour increments within the following ranges:

6 (1) From 20 to 25 miles per hour, inclusive, regarding roads in a business or  
7 residential district or a compact area, except that the lower limit may be set at 15  
8 miles per hour on roads on islands not accessible by road or dead end roads less  
9 than 1/4 mile in length; and

10 (2) From 30 to 50 miles per hour, inclusive, regarding roads in all other areas.

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

13 The Department of Transportation may require a municipality with a population of  
14 5,000 or more as measured by the latest decennial United States census that has not  
15 provided written notice to the department that the municipality will set speed limits in  
16 accordance with this paragraph to provide the department with all data necessary to set  
17 such speed limits. The nature, extent and form of that data must be acceptable to the  
18 department and may include, without limitation, the reason for the request, length and  
19 location of the proposed speed zone, road width, number of driveways in that zone,  
20 traffic volume, posted speed, prevailing speed as measured by radar, accident history  
21 and speed enforcement efforts; ~~and~~

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

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

28 **Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §2075, sub-§3, ¶G** is enacted to read:

29 G. For a business or residential district, a compact area or growth area under Title  
30 30-A, section 4301, subsection 6-C with a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less, a  
31 municipality:

32 (1) May change a speed limit on a single road or section of road without assuming  
33 responsibility for setting or managing the speed limits on all roads within the  
34 municipality;

35 (2) May lower the speed limit up to 10 miles per hour to no lower than a speed  
36 limit of 20 miles per hour, including making the speed limit uniform through the  
37 area, without a department study or other data requirements;

38 (3) Shall review any safety deficiencies and seek public input in a plan to lower a  
39 speed limit under this paragraph prior to lowering the speed limit; and

40 (4) Shall report annually on peak traffic time and nonpeak traffic time the speeds  
41 of motor vehicles, pedestrian counts and bicycle counts before and after a change

