

**Annual List of Rule-Making Activity**  
**Rules Adopted January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023**  
*Prepared by the Secretary of State, pursuant to 5 MRSA, §8053-A(5)*

**Agency name:** Maine Turnpike Authority  
**Umbrella-Unit:** 99-420  
**Statutory authority:** 23 MRSA §§ 1965  
**Chapter number/title:** Ch. 1, Rules Governing the Use of the Maine Turnpike  
**Filing number:** 2023-009  
**Effective date:** 1/23/2023  
**Type of rule:** Routine Technical  
**Emergency rule:** No

**Principal reason or purpose for rule:**

To adjust the speed limit on the southernmost seventh tenths of a mile of the Maine Turnpike.  
To set specific parking time limits for MTA concession areas.  
To clarify and strengthen the rules on prohibited conduct at MTA concession areas.  
To simplify the regulations on over limit night moves on the Maine Turnpike.

**Basis statement:**

This statement has been prepared pursuant to 5 MRSA § 8052(5), which requires a written statement explaining the factual and policy basis for adopted rules, a summary of comments received, and the MTA's responses to those comments. This statement also satisfies the requirements of 5 MRSA § 8057-A, which requires the MTA to describe sources of information relied upon in developing an adopted rule.

**I. Background and Description of Rule**

This amendment to the MTA's rules, a copy of which is attached to this Basis Statement, was noticed for public comment by the Maine Secretary of State's office on October 26th, 2022, with a comment deadline of November 28<sup>th</sup>. The rule amendment was adopted by the MTA as proposed on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

This rule change does the following:

- (1) Lowers the speed limit from 65 miles per hour to 55 miles per hour south of mile marker .7 on the Maine Turnpike. This is necessary due to shortened approaches to the Piscataqua River Bridge southbound during time periods when the breakdown lane on the bridge is used as a travel lane. This change will also make the speed limit north of the bridge consistent with the speed limit south of the bridge.
- (2) Clarifies the MTA rules on parking by including specific time limits for parking at MTA concession areas. Including these time periods in the rule will provide greater notice to the public of the MTA's policy on parking.
- (3) Strengthens the rule on loitering and soliciting at MTA service plazas. This change is made to ensure the comfort and convenience of the service plazas for the MTA's customers.
- (4) Amends the requirements on over limit vehicle movements at night to allow greater flexibility in authorizing these movements. The primary purpose of this change is to enable MTA contractors working on the turnpike at night to safely remove their equipment from the highway before daylight hours.

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**II. Primary Sources of Information Relied Upon in Formulation of Rule**

Pursuant to 5 MRSA § 8057-A (4), the following sources of information were relied upon in development of this rule amendment:

- Professional judgment of MTA engineering department staff
- Technical memorandum on speed limits dated July 5, 2022 from consulting engineering firm, HNTB.

**Fiscal impact of rule:**

None