# 99-420 MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

# Chapter 1: RULES GOVERNING THE USE OF THE MAINE TURNPIKE

**SUMMARY**: This chapter contains provisions describing speed limits, driving and parking practices, activities and vehicles prohibited, evasion of fare, damaging Turnpike property and permits for overlimit vehicles on the Maine Turnpike.

**1. Speed Limits**

Except where an exception is provided for by this rule, the maximum speed of motor vehicles on the Turnpike shall be limited to seventy (70) miles per hour, and the minimum speed shall not be less than forty-five (45) miles per hour. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the maximum speed of motor vehicles on the following portions of the Turnpike shall be as specified:

* On any portion of the Turnpike lying south of mile marker .7, the maximum speed shall be fifty-five (55) miles per hour.
* On any portion of the Turnpike lying north of mile marker.7 and south of I-95 mile marker 2.1 the maximum speed shall be sixty-five (65) miles per hour.
* On any portion of the Turnpike lying north of mile marker 44.1 and south of mile marker 52.3 the maximum speed shall be sixty (60) miles per hour.
* On the Falmouth Spur the maximum speed shall be sixty (60) miles per hour. The Falmouth spur, for purposes of this section, is defined as the segment of highway owned by the Maine Turnpike Authority between the median opening at mile marker F3.8 to the Railroad Bridge overpass at mile marker F0.5 near the ramps connecting that segment of the highway to the Turnpike mainline.

The Authority may designate different maximum speeds for construction, transitional or other reduced speed zones where operational conditions warrant, and during periods of adverse atmospheric or weather conditions. Maximum speeds within construction, transitional or reduced speed zones or during any period of adverse atmospheric or weather conditions shall be in accordance with signs displayed for such zones. All regulatory and zoning signs displayed on the Turnpike shall be obeyed.

Speed zones through toll plaza lanes where toll booths are present are reduced speed zones and shall be defined as the area 75 feet in front of a toll booth and shall continue to a point 75 feet beyond the rear of a toll booth. The maximum speed through these zones shall be ten (10) miles per hour.

Regulatory signs for reduced toll plaza speed zones shall be placed in advance of, at the beginning, and at the end of the defined speed zone. All regulatory signs displayed at the toll plaza shall be obeyed.

The Authority may designate specific lanes where tolls or information necessary for the collection of tolls are collected but which do not allow for physical payment of a toll in cash from that lane as electronic toll collection only lanes. The maximum speed in electronic toll collection only lanes shall be ten (10) miles per hour unless otherwise signed by the Authority, in which case the maximum speed shall be as signed.

Motor vehicles shall not be driven in excess of the mechanical limits of vehicles or tires. If traffic, weather, pavement or other conditions render the maximum allowable speed hazardous, the speed of motor vehicles shall be reduced consistent with such conditions.

**1-A. Lane Restrictions**

In order to improve the air quality in southern Maine, trucks, including truck tractors but excluding pickup trucks, all as defined in 29-A M.R.S.A. §101, may only operate in the two farthest right hand lanes on any section of the Turnpike south of Mile Marker 44 that consists of three lanes in each direction.

**2. One Way Traffic**

All traffic shall travel the dual or triple lanes to the right of the median strip; travel to the left of the median strip is prohibited. All traffic lanes, deceleration lanes, acceleration lanes, shoulders, and other travel ways on the Turnpike are one-way, and all motor vehicles leaving the traffic lanes, to a Toll Plaza or service station, shall leave from the right hand traffic lane to the deceleration lane to the right thereof, and follow the same one-way to such Toll Plaza or service station, and upon leaving a service station or entering the Turnpike from a Toll Plaza shall do so by way of the acceleration lane and shall enter the right traffic lane with care.

**3. Parking**

A. **Parking Prohibited - Exceptions**

Parking or stopping of vehicles on any Maine Turnpike Authority property other than an Authority designated parking area is prohibited. For the purposes of this rule, “parking area” means any Authority property on which parking is allowed, including but not limited to concession areas, park and ride lots, lots associated with other Authority facilities, and the approaches thereto. Except where specifically allowed by this rule, and without limitation of the foregoing, parking or stopping of vehicles on any portion of the right of way of the Maine Turnpike, including any traffic lane, deceleration lane, acceleration lane, breakdown lane, interchange, ramp, embankment, clear zone, or bridge is prohibited. A vehicle parked in violation of this section shall be prima facie evidence that the registered owner of that vehicle parked or allowed the vehicle in question to be so parked.

B. **Breakdowns and Emergencies**

If mechanical breakdown or another emergency requires that a vehicle be parked or stopped on the traveled portion of the Turnpike, the vehicle will be parked on the shoulder to the right of any traffic lane. All wheels and projecting parts of the vehicle or load of a vehicle parked for emergency or breakdown purposes shall be completely clear of the traffic lane. During the period beginning one-half (1/2) hour after sunset and ending one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise or at any other time when insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric or weather conditions require, any vehicle parked for emergency or breakdown purposes shall display illuminated parking and tail lights, or lighted flares to indicate its location. The driver of a disabled vehicle shall arrange for its prompt removal from the Turnpike. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as granting any person the right to leave a vehicle on the traveled portion or shoulder of the Turnpike for any period of time, nor will anything in this paragraph limit the Authority's discretion to remove a disabled vehicle from the Turnpike under paragraph (D) below.

C. **Parking in MTA Parking Areas**

Signs will be posted at parking areas governing the length of time that a motor vehicle may remain parked in those areas, the purposes for which a vehicle may be parked in such area or placing other conditions upon the use of said area for parking. Use of any posted parking area constitutes agreement to abide by the conditions or restrictions posted and it is a violation of these rules to park or allow one's vehicle to be parked in violation of any posted condition or restriction. Any motor vehicle parked or standing in an Authority parking area will be parked in designated spaces wholly within the lines provided where possible. Parking at concession areas is subject to posted restrictions and is permitted only for the use of the facilities and only for so long as use of the facilities requires. Parking for over four hours is prohibited at concession areas, except that commercial vehicle drivers may park at concession areas in designated spaces for up to twelve hours in order to comply with hours of service requirements. Parking in spaces provided for electric vehicle charging will be as posted, but in no event will electric vehicles be parked in these spaces for longer than required for the vehicle to fully charge. Parking at Park and Rides is permitted only for the purpose of commuting as posted or as otherwise defined in the Authority's then current Park and Ride Policy, a copy of which available at [*http://www.Maineturnpike.com*](http://www.Maineturnpike.com) or by contacting the Maine Turnpike Authority*.* Parking at other Authority facilities is only allowed for persons there on Authority business and only for as long as the conduct of that business requires.

D. **Towing**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, any motor vehicle which, in the Authority’s judgment, has been illegally parked on Authority property, which is parked in a manner which represents a safety hazard, or which interferes with Authority operations, including but not limited to maintenance and snow removal operations, may be removed from Authority property at the owners' expense, including but not limited to the payment of any towing and storage fees. The Authority shall not be liable for any damages resulting from such removal and nothing in this rule will limit the Authority's power to remove vehicles from its property in accordance with this subsection.

E. **Exceptions**

These rules do not apply to Maine Turnpike Authority personnel, State Police or other emergency personnel parked in the course of their official duties or to other persons specifically exempted by the Authority for the purposes of performing work on Authority property.

F. **Enforcement**

Violation of this section will be enforced in accordance with 23 MRSA §1980(1). Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the ability of the Authority from enforcing this section through any other means available to it in law or equity.

**4. Median Strip**

The median strip is the area between the dual or triple traffic lanes for the purpose of separating traffic proceeding in opposite directions.

Crossing, driving, parking or stopping on the median strip is prohibited. Openings through the median strip are provided for official use of maintenance, operational, police vehicles, or fire and rescue vehicles when responding to an incident, and shall not be used by the public.

**5. No U-Turn**

U-Turns at any point on the Turnpike are prohibited.

**6. Pedestrians**

Pedestrians are not permitted on the Turnpike, on any Interchange or at any Toll Plaza. Solicitation of any kind, including but not limited to solicitation of rides, signatures or donations, passing of hand bills, displaying of signs, and attempts to sell merchandise are prohibited on Authority property. The prohibitions on displaying of signs and attempts to sell merchandise do not extend to commercial vendors authorized by the Maine Turnpike Authority to provide goods and services at service plazas. Loitering on any Authority property is prohibited.

**7. Prohibited Vehicles**

No person shall operate any of the following on the Turnpike:

A. Bicycles or tricycles, with or without motors, and motor driven cycles, including motor scooters.

B. Animal drawn vehicles.

C. Animals – led, ridden, or driven.

D. Vehicles loaded with animals or poultry not properly confined.

E. Vehicles with flat pneumatic tires.

F. Farm implements.

G. Vehicles in the charge of intoxicated or otherwise impaired operators.

H. Vehicles with improperly secured loads which may shift or litter the highway.

I. Vehicles with metal tires or which have solid tires worn to metal.

J. Rollers, graders, power shovels, or other construction equipment, either self-propelled or in tow of another vehicle, unless such equipment is either (i) truck mounted and such truck can be operated at a minimum speed of forty-five (45) miles per hour while traveling on the Turnpike, weather and road conditions permitting, or (ii) owned or controlled by the Authority or by any contractor in connection with the performance of work authorized by the Authority.

K. Vehicles exceeding the maximum weights allowed on State highways under the motor vehicles laws of the State of Maine in effect from time to time, unless accompanied by an overweight permit issued by the State of Maine Department of Transportation.

L. Vehicles including any load thereon exceeding the following maximum dimensions, unless permitted pursuant to Rule 10 of the *Rules Governing Use of the Maine Turnpike*:

Height 13 feet 6 inches

Width 8 feet 6 inches

Length The maximum allowable lengths permitted on Interstate highways and other limited access roadways in Maine pursuant to the motor vehicle laws of the State of Maine, as in effect from time to time, without overlength permit.

M. Disabled vehicles in tow by tow-rope or chain.

N. Any vehicle which may be unsafe or hazardous to persons or property, except as permits for the transportation of radioactive material may be issued in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 11.

O. Any vehicle whose use is banned on similar interstate highways in Maine under state or federal law or regulation, whether because of the controlled access nature of the highway, the speed limit of the highway, or any other factor.

P. Any class of vehicle which may be prohibited by resolution of the Authority from time to time due to a finding by the Authority that said class of vehicle presents a safety hazard, is liable to cause unwarranted damage to the highway or otherwise interferes with the operation of the Maine Turnpike.

**8. Evasion of Fare**

Entering or leaving the Turnpike or any part of its right of way except through the regular Toll Plaza lanes, or committing any act with intent to defraud or evade payment of fare is prohibited.

**9. Trees, Shrubs and Plants**

Cutting, mutilating or removing trees, shrubs, or plants located within the Turnpike right of way is prohibited, except where specifically authorized by the Authority in writing.

**10. Overlimit Permits**

Vehicles or combinations in excess of the permitted length or width provided in Section 7(L) of these rules (“overlimit vehicles”) may be admitted to the Turnpike by permit, in accordance with all applicable provisions of these rules and such other limitations and conditions as may be provided in the permit.

A. Permits will be valid for one day only and will be issued pursuant to application submitted on forms provided by the Authority. In addition to the applicable fare in the regulator Fare Schedule, a permit fee of ten ($10.00) dollars shall be paid at the time of such application.

B. Permits will not be issued for any vehicles which, with the load thereon, exceeds 14 feet six inches (14’6”) in overall width.

C. Vehicles which, with the load thereon, exceed ten (10) feet in overall width will be allowed to enter or exit the Turnpike only at Toll Plazas designated by the Authority, from time to time, as accommodating wide loads.

D. The right is reserved to deny permits to any vehicle which may be unsafe or hazardous to persons or property and to limit the validity of any permit with respect to speed, times of travel, weather, or traffic conditions. Otherwise, the State of Maine statutes, rules and regulations from time to time in effect governing the movements of overlimit vehicles and loads in excess in eight feet, six inches (8’6”) in width, shall apply to all vehicles operated on the Turnpike pursuant to permits issued under this section, subject to the following modifications :

1. Except as otherwise authorized under subsection 5, below, movement of overlimits is permitted only between ½ hour before sunrise through ½ hour after sunset. If the destination cannot be reached within this time period , the overlimit vehicle must depart at the nearest allowable exit.

2. Overlimit vehicles will not be allowed to park at Turnpike concession areas or other parking areas overnight or for extended periods of time.

3. Overlimit vehicles will not be allowed to travel on the Turnpike during those periods of time when paving, repaving, bridge work, construction work or other type of maintenance is under way which will require the restriction of the movement of vehicles and loads in excess of 8 feet 6 inches (8’6”) in width, unless specifically authorized by a permit issued by the Maine Turnpike Authority under subsection 10(F), below.

4. Overlimit vehicles will only be permitted if such vehicles can be operated in a safe and adequate manner, at a minimum speed of forty-five (45) miles per hour while traveling on the Turnpike, weather and road conditions permitting, and construction equipment will only be permitted if such equipment is truck mounted and such truck as so loaded can be operated in a safe and adequate manner at a minimum speed of 45 miles per hour.

5. Notwithstanding subsection 1, above, the State Police and the Authority may jointly authorize night moves of overlimit vehicles at such times and in such areas where public safety will not be adversely affected. In such cases, either the Authority or the State Police may require that Maine State Police personnel be present to escort vehicles performing the night moves.

E. The operator of an overlimit vehicle operated on the Turnpike must have in his or her possession any corresponding permit required by Maine law for the operation of such vehicle on state highways.

F. **Other Overdimensional Vehicles**. Vehicles not otherwise eligible for a permit under this section, including but not limited to vehicles in excess of the applicable weight limits under state law or the height and width limits contained in this rule, will not be allowed to travel on the Turnpike or cross any bridge over the Maine Turnpike without a special permit granted by the Authority after an individualized analysis of the vehicle, applicable bridge load ratings, and other relevant factors. The owner of the vehicle in question will be liable to reimburse all costs incurred by the Authority in relation to the analysis as a condition of receiving the permit.

**11. Permits for the Transportation of Radioactive Material**

Permits for the transportation of radioactive material will be issued by the Executive Director, the Secretary-Treasurer or their authorized representatives, on the following terms and conditions:

A. Permits for a single trip only will be issued pursuant to applications submitted to the Authority not later three (3) days prior to the date of the proposed shipment on the Turnpike. Such application shall be submitted on forms provided by the Authority. In addition to the applicable fare in the regular Fare Schedule, a permit fee of ten ($10.00) dollars shall be paid at the time of such application.

B. Each such shipment shall conform in all respects to all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, including but not limited to applicable regulations of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Interstate Commerce Commission, and the Authority reserves the right to require evidence of such compliance.

C. Such shipments shall be in compliance with all other applicable provisions of these *Rules Governing Use of the Maine Turnpike*. The Authority reserves the right to limit the validity of any permit with respect to speed, times of travel, weather, travel or other conditions affecting the safe transit on the Turnpike of such materials.

D. For purposes of this rule and Paragraph N of Rule 7 of these *Rules Governing the Use of the Maine Turnpike*, the term “radioactive material” is defined as fissile radioactive material which, under the applicable regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation, when transported on a public highway must be labeled by placards on each load of such material.

**12. Payroll Information**

Records filed with the Maine Turnpike Authority pursuant to 26 M.R.S.A. §1311 are public records pursuant to the *Maine Freedom of Access Act* and shall be made available if requested pursuant thereto, except that Social Security numbers and taxpayer identification numbers contained in those records will be treated as confidential and shall not be disclosed.

**13. State Laws**

All laws, rules and regulations in the State of Maine pertaining to the use of public highways and policing thereof shall apply to the Turnpike, except insofar as they may be supplemented by these *Rules Governing the Use of the Maine Turnpike*.

**14. Penalties**

In accordance with 23 M.R.S.A. §1980, any violation of these rules shall constitute a traffic infraction, except that operation of a motor vehicle which exceeds, by 30 miles an hour or more, the speed fixed by the Authority, and failure to pay tolls, fares or charges for use of the Turnpike shall constitute Class E crimes.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

23 M.R.S.A. §§ 1965(1)(C), 1973(1), 1973(2) and 1980(3)

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Amendment and Re-adoption of *Rules and Regulations Governing Use of Turnpike* Effective October 24, 1983 (Properly filed with Secretary of State on October 19, 1983)

AMENDED:

March 4, 1984

June 12, 1987- Section 1 (EMERGENCY)

August 20, 1987 - Section 1 (EMERGENCY)

August 25, 1987 - Section 1

October 20, 1987 - Section 1

September 14, 1992 - Section 1

June 29, 1995 - Sec. 1 & 1(A)

August 18, 1995 - Sec. 1 & 1(A)

EFFECTIVE DATE (ELECTRONIC CONVERSION):

May 7, 1996

AMENDED:

June 23, 1997 (EMERGENCY - expires September 21, 1997) - Sec. 11(D)(1,7)

August 27, 1997 - Sec. 11(D)(1,7)

May 24, 2000 (EMERGENCY - expires August 22, 2000)

August 21, 2000

April 12, 2001 - Section 1, 1-A(3), renumbering

May 5, 2004 - Section 1-B added, filing 2003-470

November 29, 2009 – Section 3, filing 2009-617

August 15, 2012 – filing 2012-226

August 11, 2014 – filing 2014-160

January 23, 2023 – filing 2023-009