

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 315

S. P. 138

In Senate, February 2, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Transportation. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

Presented by Mr. Silverman of Washington.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Restrict Railroad Companies from Operating Trains Through Selected Intersections in Municipalities During Peak Traffic Conditions.

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

23 MRSA c. 410, sub-c. IV, is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER IV

RAILROAD TRAFFIC AND SCHEDULES

§ 4241. Restricted hours of operation

The commissioner, with the advice of municipal officers, shall determine in each municipality, the intersections or crossings formed by public roads and railroad tracks that are significant to the efficient flow of vehicular traffic. Following the determination of these intersections or crossings no railroad company shall permit any train to operate through these intersections or crossings during peak vehicular traffic hours.

1. Peak vehicular traffic hours. For the purpose of this subchapter, peak vehicular traffic hours shall be during normal workday hours from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The intent of this bill is to facilitate vehicular traffic flow in municipalities during peak traffic hours. Motor vehicle traffic jams and congestion cause substantial amounts of energy and time to be wasted. As a result, at rush hour periods, priority should be given to people and motor vehicles and not to trains that create traffic jams at intersections essential to the efficient flow of traffic. In many cases there are no feasible alternative routes to existing routes for motor vehicle traffic. Since peak traffic periods usually occur at the same time during the work week, railroad schedules can be arranged to accomodate motor vehicle traffic.