

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 897

S.P. 285

February 28, 2007

An Act Relating to Trains and Train Service in the State

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MITCHELL of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative CANAVAN of Waterville and
Senator: SAVAGE of Knox, Representatives: CONOVER of Oakland, KOFFMAN of Bar
Harbor, MAZUREK of Rockland.

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

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**
3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 The bill, as emergency legislation, proposes to implement the recommendations of a
6 statewide working group that was established at the request of the Joint Standing
7 Committee on Transportation during the Second Regular Session of the 122nd
8 Legislature to explore the issue of noise and air pollution attributed to train engines idling
9 for long periods of time in various communities. The working group was comprised of
10 municipal officials, neighborhood groups, federal and state environmental regulators,
11 federal and state departments of transportation, Legislators, railroad representatives and
12 additional interested parties. The objective of the working group was to review various
13 options and recommendations proposed, such as financial incentives for installing
14 auxiliary power units, or APUs. The Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
15 directed the working group to work toward resolution of issues pertaining to noise and air
16 pollution caused by idling trains in residential neighborhoods whether by developing new
17 policies or by legislation, if necessary.

18 Specifically, the bill proposes to encourage rail operators to install and use idling
19 reduction technologies whenever possible and to assist rail operators in investigating all
20 funding sources available to reduce the cost of their installation. Under the bill, the
21 Department of Transportation and the Department of Environmental Protection will work
22 together to identify and apply through the Northeast Diesel Collaborative and other
23 sources for funding to assist in the installation of idling reduction technologies through
24 matching grants or loans to the railroads.