

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1258

H.P. 919

House of Representatives, March 14, 2019

**An Act To Increase Access to Transportation for Workforce and
Other Essential Transportation Needs**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SHEATS of Auburn.
Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and
Representatives: BRYANT of Windham, COLLINGS of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §4209, sub-§2, ¶B,** as amended by PL 2009, c. 130, §3, is
3 further amended to read:

4 B. Development and maintenance of a permanent and effective public transportation
5 system, with particular regard to riders who are low-income or elderly or who have
6 disabilities and to meeting workforce needs;

7 **Sec. 2. Requirements.** The Department of Transportation shall encourage local
8 volunteer driver networks funded in section 3 to work with regional transportation
9 providers to leverage the providers' experience, mobility management systems, vehicles
10 and other resources; seek financial assistance from municipalities and other sources;
11 charge modest fares; and serve all interested residents. The Department of Transportation
12 shall create a pilot purchase of service program in a selected region of the State funded in
13 section 3 and coordinate the program with related efforts of the Statewide Independent
14 Living Council. The Department of Transportation shall distribute the funding for
15 regional transportation providers in section 3 using the same formula as current state
16 public transportation funding is distributed: 50% distributed to urban areas following the
17 United States Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration formula and
18 50% distributed to rural areas following the standards governing the Federal Transit
19 Administration formula grants for rural areas under 49 United States Code, Section 5311,
20 which include the number of square miles in the service area, the population of the
21 service area and the percentage of low-income individuals in the service area. Regional
22 transportation providers shall give preference in the allocation of funding to addressing
23 the needs of the workforce in their region.

24 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
25 allocations are made.

26 **TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

27 **Multimodal - Transit 0443**

28 Initiative: Provides funding to support and expand local volunteer driver networks.

29			
30	HIGHWAY FUND	2019-20	2020-21
31	All Other	\$500,000	\$500,000
32			
33	HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$500,000	\$500,000

34 **Multimodal - Transit 0443**

35 Initiative: Provides funding to create a pilot purchase of service program in a selected
36 region of the State to provide senior citizens and persons with disabilities vouchers to
37 purchase their own transportation services.

38

1	HIGHWAY FUND	2019-20	2020-21
2	All Other	\$500,000	\$500,000
3			
4	HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	<u>\$500,000</u>	<u>\$500,000</u>

5 **Multimodal - Transit 0443**

6 Initiative: Provides funding for regional transportation providers throughout the State,
7 split evenly between rural and urban areas, to expand their services. Funding must be
8 used to address regional workforce needs and other unmet transportation needs.

9			
10	HIGHWAY FUND	2019-20	2020-21
11	All Other	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000
12			
13	HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	<u>\$9,000,000</u>	<u>\$9,000,000</u>

14			
15	TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF		
16	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2019-20	2020-21
17			
18	HIGHWAY FUND	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
19			
20	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$10,000,000</u>	<u>\$10,000,000</u>

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill requires the quinquennial locally coordinated plan for regional transit
23 submitted by each regional public transportation agency to focus on meeting workforce
24 needs.

25 This bill also provides funding to the Department of Transportation to support and
26 expand local volunteer driver networks; to create a pilot purchase of service program in a
27 selected region of the State to provide senior citizens and persons with disabilities
28 vouchers to purchase their own transportation services; and for regional transportation
29 providers throughout the State, split evenly between rural and urban areas, to expand their
30 services, including addressing regional workforce needs.