

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2020

Legislative Document

No. 2009

H.P. 1430

House of Representatives, January 14, 2020

**An Act To Permit the Expansion of Municipal Membership of the
Greater Portland Transit District**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Speaker GIDEON of Freeport.

Cosponsored by Senator CARSON of Cumberland and

Representatives: DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, McCREIGHT of Harpswell, McLEAN of Gorham, TUCKER of Brunswick, Senator: BREEN of Cumberland.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the Greater Portland Transit District initiated a pilot project to provide
4 express bus service between the City of Portland and the Town of Brunswick, called
5 "Metro Breez," in coordination with participating municipalities located along the Metro
6 Breez route; and

7 **Whereas,** as a result of Metro Breez's strong ridership performance, support among
8 riders and businesses, the long-term potential to help relieve Interstate 295 congestion
9 and the opportunity to help drive sustainable community and economic development, the
10 district desires to transition Metro Breez from its pilot phase to a permanent regional
11 transit service; and

12 **Whereas,** the participating municipalities support the continuation of Metro Breez
13 as a permanent service and desire to join the board of directors of the district in order to
14 participate in the development of the district's annual budget and establish the local
15 contributions of the district's member municipalities to fund Metro Breez as a permanent
16 service; and

17 **Whereas,** in accordance with the district's budget process as set forth in the Maine
18 Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 3516, the board of directors of the district must
19 initiate the budget process by preparing and submitting to the municipal officers of its
20 member municipalities an estimated budget by November 1st of each year and must
21 finalize its budget by March 1st of the subsequent year; and

22 **Whereas,** Title 30-A, section 3504 provides that the district may expand its
23 membership to include other municipalities located wholly or partially within the
24 Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System, but not all of the participating
25 municipalities are located wholly or partially within the system; and

26 **Whereas,** this legislation allows municipalities that are contiguous to the system to
27 join the board of directors of the district; and

28 **Whereas,** this legislation must take effect as soon as possible to help ensure these
29 municipalities may timely participate in the district's budget process; and

30 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
31 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
32 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
33 therefore,

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

35 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §3504, sub-§3,** as amended by PL 2009, c. 18, §2, is further
36 amended to read:

37 **3. Greater Portland Transit District.** The board of directors of the Greater
38 Portland Transit District, composed of the City of Portland, the City of Westbrook and

1 the Town of Falmouth, consists of 5 directors appointed from the City of Portland, 3
2 directors appointed from the City of Westbrook and 2 directors appointed from the Town
3 of Falmouth. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this chapter, the board of directors
4 of the Greater Portland Transit District may receive and accept applications for
5 membership from other municipalities located wholly or partially within, or contiguous
6 to, the Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System whether or not they are
7 contiguous to other members of the Greater Portland Transit District and may determine
8 the number of directors to be appointed from those municipalities to the board of
9 directors of the Greater Portland Transit District on any basis that is mutually agreed
10 upon by the municipality applying for membership and the board of directors of the
11 Greater Portland Transit District. The member municipalities may, by ordinance, provide
12 that their appointees serve at the will of the appointing power or for terms that are shorter
13 than those established in subsection 2.

14 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
15 legislation takes effect when approved.

16 **SUMMARY**

17 This bill authorizes the board of directors of the Greater Portland Transit District to
18 accept applications for membership from municipalities that are contiguous to, as well as
19 those located wholly or partially within, the Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation
20 System.