

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
108TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. H-178)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 556, L.D. 673, Bill, "AN ACT Concerning Board of Directors of Transit Districts."

Amend the Bill by inserting before the enacting clause the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, a number of transit districts are required to conduct business with 2/3 of the directors present; and

Whereas, the 2/3 requirement retards the progress of the transit districts; and

Whereas, many people are expressing great interest in the issues before the transit districts, particularly as a result of the energy crisis; and

Whereas, a number of significant decisions are required by the transit districts in the ensuing months; and

Whereas, immediate public participation is needed in the decision making process of the transit districts for the best interests of the districts and the State; and

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

Further amend the Bill in section 1 by striking out in the 5th line the underlined words "a majority" and inserting the underlined figure '2/3'

Further amend the Bill by inserting at the end, before the statement of fact, the following:

'Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.'

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to ensure that authoritative decisions made by a quorum of the board of directors of transit directors represent as much as possible the opinions of the entire board. In addition, this amendment will require transit authorities to hold public hearings as soon as the bill is enacted. Public participation in major transit authority decisions will be beneficial to the districts and the State will promote cooperation between the people and the directors of the transit districts.

Reported by the Committee on Transportation.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

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