

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 973

H. P. 721

House of Representatives, March 10, 1977

Speaker laid before the House and on motion of Mr. Jensen of Portland, referred to Committee on Public Utilities. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Rollins of Dixfield.

Cosponsor: Mr. Jensen of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT Concerning Municipal Transit Districts.

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

Sec. 1. 30 MRSA § 4976, as enacted by PL 1965, c. 488, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 4976. Single municipal or regional transportation district

In the event a single municipality shall vote to create such a district, its municipal officers shall appoint from the inhabitants of such municipality 5 directors, who shall have the same terms of office, powers, duties and privileges as set forth in this chapter. A single municipality may, by vote of its legislative body, or a regional transportation corporation, by vote of its board of directors, be empowered to perform the functions provided in this chapter without creating a district and thereafter such single municipality or regional transportation corporation shall have all of the powers, duties and privileges established applicable to a district, unless specifically excluded, and the municipal officers of such municipality or directors of such regional transportation corporation shall have the same powers, duties and privileges granted under this chapter to the board of directors of a district.

Sec. 2. 30 MRSA § 4977, as enacted by PL 1965, c. 488, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 4977. District defined

Wherever the word "district" is used in this chapter, it shall be deemed to include a district created by vote of a single municipality, or by vote of a group of municipalities, or a municipality voting to provide such mass transportation

service without the creation of a district or a regional transportation corporation.

Sec. 3. 30 MRSA § 4977-A is enacted to read:

§ 4977-A. Definition of regional transportation corporation

A regional transportation corporation is defined as any private, nonprofit corporation formed for the express purpose of providing public transportation services to more than one municipality but which is not wholly or partly owned by the municipalities. Such a corporation shall be duly certified as a regional transportation corporation by the Department of Transportation and shall be subject to all applicable Public Utilities Commission regulations governing charter and rates of fare.

Sec. 4. 30 MRSA § 4980, as enacted by PL 1965, c. 488, is amended to read:

§ 4980. Limitation

Charter service rendered by the district shall be limited to that which originates or terminates at some point within said district and shall in all respects be subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission in the same manner and to the same extent as private companies providing charter service, except that a regional transportation corporation shall not provide any charter service other than that specially provided for under the conditions of any license granted the corporation by the Public Utilities Commission.

Sec. 5. 30 MRSA § 4981, 1st sentence, as enacted by PL 1965, c. 488, is amended to read:

The directors of a district shall establish such routes and shall fix such rates of fare to be charged for such mass transportation service as shall to the extent possible reasonably assure sufficient income to meet the cost of the service, including, but not limited to, operating expenses, insurance, taxes, rentals, annual serial bond payments, interest, allocation for a reserve account and an allowance for depreciation, except that the director of a regional transportation corporation shall not fix any rates of fare to be charged for mass transportation service other than that specifically provided for under the conditions of any license granted the corporation by the Public Utilities Commission.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to recognize the importance of the regional public transportation corporations in Maine as providing essential transportation service in areas where none would otherwise exist. The existing legislation for transit districts does not realistically permit their development in expansive rural areas which encompass scores of municipalities and sparsely settled plantations. This legislation would extend the same financial opportunities, including certain fee and tax exemptions, to regional transportation corporations that are now enjoyed by the more urbanized transit district.