

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 607

S. P. 220

In Senate, February 4, 1981

Referred to the Committee on Transportation. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Kerry of York.

Cosponsor: Senator Pierce of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT Concerning Walks and Handrails on Railroad Bridges.

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

23 MRSA § 4218, sub-§ 3, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 341, § 2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

3. Walks and handrails on railroad bridges. Every railroad corporation shall construct and maintain suitable walks and handrails on all their newly constructed, reconstructed or redecked bridges and trestles. Any railroad corporation refusing or neglecting to comply with this paragraph, commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not less than \$300 nor more than \$500 shall be adjudged for each month of continuance in such neglect or refusal.

The commissioner may to relieve any railroad corporation from the requirements of this subsection as to construction of walks and handrails, upon proper petition therefor, after department inspection and review, and for good cause shown, to such extent as the commissioner deems consistent with public safety.

The commissioner may upon complaint and after hearing, require any railroad corporation to equip their existing bridges and trestles with suitable walks and handrails, if after such hearing the commissioner finds that such walks and handrails are necessary for the safety of the public or railroad employees.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The intent of this bill is to provide public and railroad employee protection during passage of railroad equipment over bridges and trestles or for safe egress during emergencies from railroad equipment at rest on bridges or trestles.