

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Governor's Bill)  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1296**

H. P. 1087

House of Representatives, March 13, 1981

Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Lund of Augusta.

Cosponsors: Senator Usher of Cumberland, Representative McGowan of Pittsfield.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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**AN ACT to Appropriate Funds to Support Regional Ride Share Programs.**

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

10 MRSA c. 216 is enacted to read:

**CHAPTER 216**

**REGIONAL RIDE SHARE SERVICES MATCHING FUND PROGRAM**

§ 1461. Title

This chapter shall be known as the "Regional Ride Share Services Matching Fund Program."

§ 1462. Findings and purpose

The Legislature finds and declares that it is in the public interest to encourage ride share arrangements as an energy conservation measure and as a contingency plan to combat the continuing threats of prolonged shortages or rationing of gasoline.

The Legislature further finds that there is a need to promote the ride share concept among Maine businesses and industries, as well as to the general public.

The Legislature also finds that establishment of regional ride share programs which serve the general public and business community of a particular area is an effective means of accomplishing ride share promotion and providing ride share matching and van pool formation assistance.

The Legislature finds it in the public interest to establish a fund drawn from the General Fund from which such entities as local or county government, civic, nonprofit, planning service or community organizations may receive financial assistance for the purpose of implementing a regional ride share service. No funds may be received by an eligible party as described in this section which cannot provide at least 50% of the necessary funds for its ride share project.

#### § 1463. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Regional ride share service. "Regional ride share service" may include, but is not necessarily limited to, such commuter ride share matching activities as van pool financing and formation assistance, ride share promotion, creation of area ride share task forces, provisions of community ride share incentives, such as park and pool lots, preferential or reduced fare parking for pools on an area-wide basis.

2. Ride share arrangements. "Ride share arrangements" include, but are not necessarily limited to, car pools, van pools, bus pools and increased use of public transportation services. These arrangements may be sponsored by individuals, individual groups, private employers, ride share businesses or programs, civic, service, municipal, county or regional organizations, neighborhood cooperatives, nonprofit corporations and other similar entities.

#### § 1464. Regional Ride Share Services Matching Fund Program

There is established, to carry out the purposes of this chapter, a Regional Ride Share Services Matching Fund Program to be administered by the Office of Energy Resources.

#### § 1465. Allocation and disbursement of funds

The local entity or organization applying for assistance may be eligible for funding of no more than 50% of the cost of its proposed regional ride share project.

The director shall, in accordance with Title 5, chapter 575, develop rules and regulations for the allocation and disbursement of funds provided by this chapter. These rules and regulations include, but are not limited to:

1. Disbursement of funds. Provisions for disbursement of funds to eligible parties which endeavor to design and implement regional ride share services;
2. Advice. Provisions for seeking advice from members of communities where proposed regional ride share programs would be implemented;

3. **Use of funds.** Provisions governing specific uses of state funds by eligible parties and an appropriate time frame for disbursement of the funds; or

4. **Funds; reductions.** Provisions regarding pro rata reductions in the percentage of funds disbursed as disbursement proceeds.

§ 1466. **Legislative reports**

The director shall evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of this chapter and prepare a report for submission to the first regular session of the 11th Legislature. This report shall include, but not be limited to:

1. **Number and nature of projects.** The number and nature of projects funded;

2. **Cost.** The cost of these projects;

3. **Effectiveness.** The effectiveness of each project in quantified terms;

4. **Amount of energy conservation.** The estimated amount of energy conservation by each project; and

5. **Recommendations.** Recommendations regarding continuation of this chapter.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Since the Governor and the Office of Energy Resources began to promote ride sharing in the summer of 1979, 2 regional computerized commuter matching services have been started. The first was in Portland and the 2nd in Bangor. These efforts have been funded with one-time, special federal grants and substantial in-kind contributions from the private sector. Both of these programs have been well received by the public, have been successful on a technical level and provide a very important gasoline shortage contingency plan function as well as an ongoing conservation and convenience service to the public. These regional programs are preferable to single employer site programs because they are able to serve the general public and relieve employers of many administrative burdens.

It is desirable to establish a small fund to assist these regional programs and provide an incentive to other communities or regions expressing an interest. It is important to note that these funds will only be available on a 50/50 matching basis. Technical assistance in the planning, promotion and implementation stages of a regional ride share program will be made available by the Office of Energy Resources, in addition to matching funds.

It should be noted that the Federal Government is making available, in increasing amounts, funds to be used by state and local government to promote ride sharing. If the State establishes a ride share fund, there is a good possibility that it can be used to attract federal matching funds.

The appropriation for this bill is contained in the Part II budget. Fifteen thousand dollars is requested in each year of the biennium.