

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1087

6
7 H.P. 835

House of Representatives, March 7, 1983

8 Submitted by the Department of Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule
9 24.

10 Speaker laid before the House and on Motion of Representative Carter of
Winslow, referred to the Committee on Transportation. Sent up for
concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Cox of Brewer.

11 Cosponsors: Representative Callahan of Mechanic Falls and
Representative Theriault of Fort Kent.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
16

17 AN ACT to Permit the Use of State Funds
18 for Rail Rehabilitation Projects and Townway
19 Crossing Improvements.
20

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

23 23 MRSA §4207, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1975, c.
24 221, is amended to read:

25 4. Cooperation, acceptance and use of federal,
26 state, local or private funds. The Department of
27 Transportation is authorized and empowered to may ac-
28 cept, for the State of Maine, federal funds that may
29 be apportioned under the "Regional Rail Reorganiza-
30 tion Act of 1973," (87 Stat. 985) as amended and
31 supplemented, other federal funds, state funds and
32 such municipal funds and private funds as may be
33 available; to act for the State, in conjunction with
34 the representatives of the Federal Government, munic-

1 ipal governments and private groups having a direct
2 interest, in all matters relating to the acquisition,
3 rehabilitation, construction or lease of railroad
4 line or lines in the State of Maine and contracts for
5 rail service continuation over railroad lines as pro-
6 vided in this section.

7 STATEMENT OF FACT

8 The provisions of Title 23, section 4207 assigned
9 to the Department of Transportation responsibility in
10 regard to the purchase and lease of railroad lines in
11 the State. These provisions were originally enacted
12 to respond to federal legislation which provided
13 funding for the acquisition of rail lines to be aban-
14 doned as a result of a number of bankruptcies among
15 private rail carriers in the northeast. The intent
16 of section 4207 has always been to include not only
17 lease and acquisition but rehabilitation and con-
18 struction where appropriate. The Department of
19 Transportation has been advised that the present lan-
20 guage of this section does not clearly indicate that
21 rehabilitation and construction of existing railroad
22 lines is included. The purpose of this bill is to
23 make it clear that the State, through the Department
24 of Transportation, can undertake projects for the re-
25 habilitation and construction of rail lines in the
26 State and the improvement of townway crossings.

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