

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

NO. 2396

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

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

8 CHAPTER 615

1 STATE RAILROAD PRESERVATION AND ASSISTANCE ACT

2 §7101. Short title

3 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as
4 the "State Railroad Preservation and Assistance Act."

5 §7102. Findings of fact

6 The Legislature makes a finding of fact that a
7 viable and efficient rail transportation system is
8 necessary to the economic well-being of the State.

9 The Legislature makes a further finding of fact
10 that the State must take active steps to protect and
11 promote rail transportation in order to further the
12 general welfare.

13 §7103. Railroad Preservation and Assistance Fund

14 1. Deposit of funds. All revenue derived from
15 the tax levied pursuant to Title 36, chapter 361,
16 shall be deposited by the Treasurer of State in a
17 separate account to be known as the Railroad
18 Preservation and Assistance Fund.

19 2. Legislative approval of budget. Expenditures
20 from the Railroad Preservation and Assistance Fund are
21 subject to legislative approval in the same manner as
22 appropriations from the General Fund.

23 3. Use of funds. Subject to the Civil Service
24 Law, money in the fund may be expended to hire
25 employees and to defray other costs authorized by law
26 for the Department of Transportation, Bureau of
27 Transportation Services as follows:

28 A. To conduct studies relating to the economic
29 impact of rail transportation on the State
30 including cost-benefit analyses associated with
31 the possible retention or loss of individual rail
32 lines;

3 C. To acquire, lease and maintain rail lines when
4 these actions are determined to be in the best
5 interest of the State; and

6 D. To provide grants or low-interest loans to the
7 operators of rail lines when those grants or loans
8 are determined to be the most practical ways of
9 maintaining service on a line and the continued
10 operation of the line is determined to be in the
11 best interest of the State. The department may
12 require that any loans provided pursuant to this
13 section be secured by the assets of the rail
14 corporation or operator receiving the loans. The
15 department shall develop guidelines with respect
16 to qualifying for any programs instituted under
17 this section. The department shall also develop
18 guidelines for the administration of this section.

19 4. Balance carried forward. Any balance in the
20 fund in excess of that required for the purposes of
21 this section shall not lapse, but shall be carried
22 forward. Any allocation of this balance shall be
23 identified as to source.

24 **Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds are
25 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
26 purposes of this Act.

27 1988-89

28 TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF

29 Bureau of Transportation Services

30	Positions	(3)
31	Personal Services	\$100,000

32 Provides funds for 3
33 railroad inspectors.

1 STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The purpose of this bill is to create the Railroad
3 Preservation and Assistance Act. Specifically, this
4 bill creates a fund to be used to protect, preserve
5 and promote rail transportation in the State. The
6 fund will be financed from the excise tax on railroad
7 gross receipts.

8 The fund would be administered by the Department
9 of Transportation, and could be used to conduct
10 studies to determine the effect on the State's economy
11 of losing or maintaining rail service; to survey track
12 conditions; to acquire, lease or maintain rail lines;
13 and to provide grants and loans.

14 This bill also provides for 3 full-time railroad
15 inspectors.

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