

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 1778

S.P. 665

In Senate, June 30, 1989

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27.

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested. In Senate, under suspension of the Rules, Read Twice and Passed to be Engrossed, without reference to a Committee and ordered printed. Sent down forthwith for concurrence. In House, June 30, 1989, under suspension of the Rules, Read Twice and Passed to be Engrossed without reference to a Committee, in concurrence.

Joy J. O'Brien
JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator THERIAULT of Aroostook.

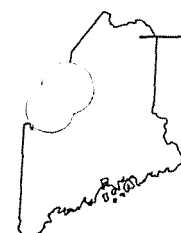
Cosponsored by Senator BUSTIN of Kennebec, Representative PARADIS of Frenchville and Representative MARTIN of Van Buren.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Encourage Air Transportation to Designated Locations in Maine.

(After Deadline)



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

3 **Sec. 1. 6 MRSA §19** is enacted to read:

5 **§19. Small community air service program**

7 **1. Findings and purpose.** It is intent of the Legislature
9 to establish a small community air service program in order to
11 promote intrastate service to underserved communities within the
13 State. It is further the intent of the Legislature to subsidize
15 this service as necessary to provide an adequate level of air
17 transportation to small communities within the State.

19 **2. Small community air service.** In order to promote
21 essential air service, the Department of Transportation shall
23 administer a program, patterned after the federal essential air
25 service program, to ensure that small communities have adequate
27 levels of service. This program shall take into consideration a
29 minimum round trip and minimum seating criteria for each eligible
31 point to destinations within the State which provide access into
33 the national air transportation system.

35 **3. Eligibility requirements.** To be eligible for subsidy,
37 an air carrier must be certified by the Federal Aviation
39 Administration to provide scheduled air service to the eligible
41 point and must demonstrate a need for subsidy. The eligible
43 point must be currently served by no more than one air carrier
45 providing scheduled service.

47 **4. Expanded service.** Communities desiring to receive new
49 service must demonstrate a capability to support that service
51 through passenger enplanements.

5. Adoption of rules. The Department of Transportation
shall promulgate rules necessary to administer this section. The
rules shall establish the formula for reimbursement and
application requirements.

Sec. 2. Evaluation of service needs and program. The Department
of Transportation shall undertake a study to evaluate minimum air
carrier service needs to communities within the State including
air service frequency, aircraft utilization, seating capacity and
trip destinations. The study shall also evaluate and recommend
adjustments to the reimbursement formula developed pursuant to
the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 6, section 19, subsection 5.
The recommendations, including any necessary implementing
legislation, shall be submitted to the First Regular Session of
the 115th Legislature.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated
from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

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1989-90

1990-91

TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF
Appropriation No. 1785.1001

All Other	\$500,000	\$500,000
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The Department of Transportation is authorized to use up to \$50,000 of appropriated funds to conduct the evaluation of service needs and the small community air service program. The remaining funds shall be reimbursed to eligible carriers.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill establishes a small community air service program, restricted to intrastate service to communities which have no other air service, to be administered by the Department of Transportation.