



118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1858

H.P. 1310

House of Representatives, May 1, 1997

An Act Directing the Department of Transportation to Conduct the Necessary Studies and to Construct an East-west Highway.

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative HATCH of Skowhegan. Cosponsored by Senator MILLS of Somerset and Representatives: DRISCOLL of Calais, GERRY of Auburn, MERES of Norridgewock, SAMSON of Jay, SAXL of Bangor.

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

2

26

40

Sec. 1. East-west highway authorized. The Department of Transportation shall construct a highway from the Canadian border 4 near the City of Calais to the New Hampshire border near Gilead and from the Canadian border near Coburn Gore to a terminus at or 6 near Farmington. This highway must adhere to national highway system standards and may follow existing portions of 8 theinterstate highway system or state highways. The department 10 shall conduct planning and feasibility studies regarding the construction of this highway to 4-lane interstate standards from 12 the Canadian border near the City of Calais to a point near the Town of Skowhegan.

14 2. East-west highway signs. Sec. The Department of 16 Transportation shall install full route signs on existing state highways that connect Calais, Gilead and Coburn Gore. The names of these highways must be chosen by the joint standing committee 18the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation of 20 This committee may report out legislation to this matters. effect during the Second Regular Session of the 118th 22 Legislature. The department may change the routing and signs of highways upon construction of new segments. The highway signs described in this section must be funded by proceeds from the 24 sale of bonds authorized and sold for this purpose.

Sec. 3. East-west highway construction schedule. Subject to the 28 availability of federal, state and possibly toll revenues specifically raised for and directed toward construction of an 30 east-west highway, the Department of Transportation shall use all these funds to move forward aggressively with all planning, 32 permitting and construction necessary to complete as much of the new or reconstructed highway as possible. The department may use 34 available dedicated funds for planning of the entire route or construction or reconstruction of discrete segments, depending 36 upon the level of funds available and relying upon sound transportation planning principles. 38

SUMMARY

42 This bill directs the Department of Transportation to construct a highway from the Canadian border near the City of Calais to the New Hampshire border near Gilead and from the 44 Canadian border near Coburn Gore to a terminus at or near 46 Farmington. The bill directs the department to install signs on existing state highways that connect Calais, Gilead and Coburn 48 The names of these highways must be chosen by the joint Gore. standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over 50 transportation matters during the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature. These highway signs must be funded by proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized and sold for this purpose. The bill directs the department, subject to the availability of funds, to use these funds to move forward aggressively with the planning, permitting and construction necessary to complete as much of the new or reconstructed highway as possible.