

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

---

Legislative Document

No. 1638

S.P. 571

In Senate, March 3, 1999

**Resolve, to Review Traffic Congestion Including Truck Traffic along the  
Route 1 York Corridor.**

(EMERGENCY)

---

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President LAWRENCE of York.  
Cosponsored by Representative WHEELER of Eliot and  
Senators: CASSIDY of Washington, PARADIS of Aroostook, Representative: FISHER of  
Brewer.

2           **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts and resolves of the  
Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after  
adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

4  
6           **Whereas,** traffic congestion, including heavy truck traffic,  
along U.S. Route 1 and other roadways in York County increases  
greatly each year during the summer and fall months; and

8  
10           **Whereas,** the traffic congestion slows travel for Maine  
residents and tourists, creates noise and other environmental  
problems along the U.S. Route 1 York corridor and other area  
12 roadways and adversely affects area lodging and other commercial  
establishments; and

14  
16           **Whereas,** review and study of issues related to traffic  
congestion are necessary to improve safety and convenience for  
all travelers and the quality of life for residents living along  
18 the U.S. Route 1 York corridor and area roadways; and

20           **Whereas,** emergency legislation is needed to begin the study  
promptly and to ensure that the issue is carefully considered; and

22  
24           **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
26 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore, be it

28  
30           **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission  
to Review Traffic Congestion Along the U.S. Route 1 York  
Corridor, referred to in this order as the "commission," is  
32 established; and be it further

34           **Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists  
of 12 members appointed as follows:

36  
38           1. The President of the Senate shall appoint 2 members from  
the Senate, one of whom serves on the Joint Standing Committee on  
Transportation and one of whom represents a Senate district in  
40 York County;

42           2. The Speaker of the House shall appoint 2 members from  
the House of Representatives, one of whom serves on the Joint  
Standing Committee on Transportation and one of whom represents a  
44 House district in the York County area;

46  
48           3. The managers of the towns of Kittery, Ogunquit, Wells  
and York or their designees; and

50           4. The chiefs of police for the towns of Kittery, Ogunquit,  
Wells and York or their designees; and be it further

2           **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first named Senate member  
is the Senate chair and the first named House member is the House  
chair of the commission; and be it further

4  
6           **Sec. 4. Convening of commission. Resolved:** That all  
appointments to the commission must be made no later than 30 days  
following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing  
8 authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the  
Legislative Council upon making their appointments. When the  
10 appointment of all members is completed, the chairs of the  
commission shall call and convene the first meeting of the  
12 commission, which may occur no earlier than 5 days following  
adjournment sine die of the Legislature but no later than July  
14 15, 1999; and be it further

16           **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall conduct a  
comprehensive review of the following:

18  
20           1. Past, current and projected traffic flows and patterns  
along U.S. Route 1, the Maine Turnpike and other major roadways  
in the York County area between Kittery and Wells;

22  
24           2. Vehicular accident rates in the U.S. Route 1 York  
corridor;

26           3. Noise and dust pollution resulting from traffic and its  
effects on area businesses and residents;

28  
30           4. Traffic weigh station activities, truck violations and  
the extent of traffic diverted from the Maine Turnpike in the  
York County area to avoid weigh station inspections;

32  
34           5. Current local roadway signage, traffic signals and local  
traffic conditions and patterns and their effect on traffic  
congestion;

36  
38           6. Traffic patterns of nonlocal traffic, including  
long-distance carriers that may affect traffic congestion; and

40           7. State and local law enforcement coverage along the U.S.  
Route 1 York corridor; and be it further

42  
44           **Sec. 6. Participation by state departments. Resolved:** That, in  
studying these matters, the commission shall invite the  
participation of the Commissioner of Public Safety, the  
46 Commissioner of Transportation and the Executive Director of the  
Maine Turnpike Authority, or their designees. The commission may  
48 require the Department of Transportation, the Department of  
Public Safety and the Maine Turnpike Authority to provide the  
50 commission with such highway, traffic and other information as it  
determines necessary and beneficial to conduct its study of

2 traffic congestion. In addition, the commission may seek  
relevant information from experts and interested persons; and be  
it further

4  
6 **Sec. 7. Meetings. Resolved:** That, in conducting its duties,  
the commission may meet at such times and locations as approved  
by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
8 Representatives, except that at least 2 informational meetings of  
the commission must be held in York County; and be it further

10  
12 **Sec. 8. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, upon approval from the  
Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
shall provide staffing services to the commission; and be it  
14 further

16  
18 **Sec. 9. Compensation. Resolved:** That legislative members are  
entitled to receive the legislative per diem and reimbursement of  
necessary expenses for their attendance at authorized meetings of  
20 the commission. Public members not otherwise compensated by  
their employers or other entities whom they represent are  
entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses and a per  
22 diem equal to the legislative per diem for their attendance at  
authorized meetings of the commission; and be it further

24  
26 **Sec. 10. Reporting date. Resolved:** That the commission shall  
conclude its review and submit a report of its findings and  
recommendations, along with any suggested legislation, to the  
28 Legislature by November 15, 1999. If the commission finds it is  
unable to meet its reporting date, the chairs shall submit to the  
30 Legislative Council, in writing, a request for extension of the  
reporting date, the reasons an extension is requested and a  
32 proposed new reporting date prior to the reporting date. The  
Legislative Council may grant an extension. Upon the submission  
34 of its required report, the commission terminates; and be it  
further

36  
38 **Sec. 11. Commission budget. Resolved:** That the chairs of the  
commission, with assistance from the commission staff, shall  
administer the commission's budget. Within 10 days after its  
40 first meeting, the commission shall present a work plan and  
proposed budget to the Legislative Council for its approval. The  
42 commission may not incur expenses that would result in the  
commission exceeding its approved budget.

44  
46 Upon request from the commission, the Executive Director of  
the Legislative Council or the Executive Director's designee  
shall provide the commission chairs and staff with a status  
48 report on the study budget, expenditures incurred and paid and  
available funds.

2           **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

4

#### SUMMARY

6

8

This bill proposes to establish a study commission to review traffic congestion and related environmental problems along the U.S. Route 1 corridor and area roadways in the York County area and make recommendations to reduce traffic congestion.