

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

Legislative Document

No. 2617

H.P. 1882

House of Representatives, March 10, 2000

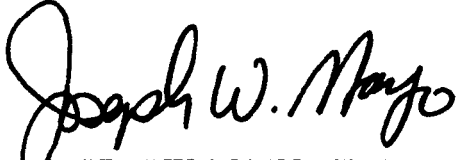
Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Review the Opportunities to Avoid the Need to Widen I-295.

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

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 NORBERT of Portland.

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 Whereas, I-295 is a highway segment of statewide economic
6 importance; and

8 Whereas, I-295 is facing capacity constraints and projected
unacceptable congestion; and

10 Whereas, widening I-295 would create issues of statewide
12 significance; and

14 Whereas, reasonable alternatives to widening I-295 will
require coordinated strategies of many state and local
16 jurisdictions and authorities; and

18 Whereas, the Department of Transportation and the Maine
Turnpike Authority have also identified capacity constraints on
20 I-95, which is the Maine Turnpike, between South Portland and
Falmouth, and I-95 between Falmouth and Brunswick; and

22 Whereas, I-295 has more than twice the traffic on I-95 where
24 each road crosses the Portland-South Portland line; and

26 Whereas, the Department of Transportation has identified
capacity constraints on noninterstate arteries that might be
28 remedied by improved access to the turnpike and interstate
system; and

30 Whereas, it is the responsibility of the Department of
32 Transportation to advise the Legislature on transportation
matters; and

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

40 **Sec. 1. Department of Transportation to conduct study. Resolved:**
42 That the Department of Transportation shall conduct a
comprehensive review of the existing and ongoing studies on the
44 issues included in the potential widening of I-295, explore
opportunities to avoid the need for the widening and submit a
46 report of its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
48 transportation matters by January 1, 2001.

2 As part of its review, the department shall consider at a
minimum:

4 1. The opportunity for new travel lanes on the Maine
Turnpike to provide an alternative for new travel lanes on I-295;

6
8 2. The opportunity for different toll collection strategies
on the Maine Turnpike to mitigate capacity constraints on I-295;

10 3. The opportunity for changed access between the Maine
Turnpike and the free interstate system to affect capacity
12 constraints on I-295;

14 4. The cost savings of construction and operation of new
interchanges, considering different toll collection strategies;
16 and

18 5. The impact of proposed or planned new interchanges on
the interstate system as it relates to identified capacity
20 constraints on noninterstate arteries; and be it further

22 **Sec. 2. Authorization to report out legislation. Resolved:** That the
joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
24 over transportation matters may report out to the First Regular
Session of the 120th Legislature any legislation necessary to
26 implement the recommendations of the report.

28 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.
30

32 SUMMARY

34 This resolve directs the Maine Department of Transportation
to conduct a comprehensive review of studies concerning issues
36 included in the potential widening of I-295 and to explore
opportunities to avoid the need for widening. The department is
38 required to submit its report to the joint standing committee of
the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters
40 and the committee is authorized to report out legislation based
on the recommendations in the report to the First Regular Session
42 of the 120th Legislature.