

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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TRANSPORTATION

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 681, L.D. 881, "Resolve, Establishing the Blue Ribbon Commission on the East-West Rail Corridor"

Amend the resolve by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, Requiring the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation to Study Passenger and Freight Rail Opportunities in the State'

Further amend the resolve by striking out everything after the emergency preamble and before the emergency clause and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. Committee directed to study. Resolved: That the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, referred to in this resolve as the "committee," shall study passenger and freight rail opportunities in the State; and be it further

Sec. 2. Convening of committee. Resolved: That the chairs of the committee shall call and convene the first meeting of the committee no later than August 1, 2001; and be it further

Sec. 3. Duties. Resolved: That the committee shall hold a minimum of 4 meetings. The committee shall examine:

- 1. The feasibility of maintaining and enhancing specific rail corridors such as the east-west corridor through Brownville and the north-south corridor from Searsport through Brownville to Van Buren through economic and community development initiatives, avoidance of highway and bridge maintenance costs, intermodal connections and comprehensive freight and passenger services; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2 Current and potential state policies to enhance the
3 financial viability of rail service throughout the State.

4 The committee shall consult with stakeholders and interested
5 parties affected by state rail policy; and be it further
6

7 **Sec. 4. Department of Transportation assistance. Resolved:** That
8 the Department of Transportation shall gather necessary data and
9 information and provide it to the committee as directed by the
10 committee chairs. This data and information must relate without
11 limitation to the following topical areas:
12

13 1. State acquisition and preservation of railroad corridors
14 subject to potential discontinuation of service or abandonment;

15 2. State-owned corridors and their future potential to
16 carry passengers and freight;
17

18 3. The prioritization of railroad corridors for development
19 of passenger service;
20

21 4. The maintenance needs of state-owned railroad corridors
22 and funding mechanisms to provide for maintenance of these assets;
23

24 5. The potential subsidy required for passenger and freight
25 rail operations;
26

27 6. The potential subsidy required for passenger and freight
28 rail capital, including current programs of the Department of
29 Transportation such as the Industrial Rail Access Program;
30

31 7. Methods to provide access to shippers;
32

33 8. The opportunities for the development of passenger and
34 freight intermodal facilities;
35

36 9. Initiatives for preservation and enhancement of gateways
37 into the continental rail system; and
38

39 10. Implications of other state rail policies outlined in
40 the previous state rail plan; and be it further
41

42 **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, upon approval of the
43 Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
44 shall provide necessary staffing services to the committee; and
45 be it further
46

47 **Sec. 6. Compensation. Resolved:** That the members of the
48 committee are entitled to receive the legislative per diem as
49 defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2 and
50

reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses related to their attendance at meetings to fulfill their duties as charged; and be it further

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That the committee shall submit its report together with any recommended implementing legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature no later than December 31, 2001. If the committee requires a limited extension of time to complete its study and make its report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant an extension; and be it further

Sec. 8. Budget. Resolved: That the chairs of the committee, with assistance from the committee staff, shall administer the committee's budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the committee shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the Legislative Council for approval. The committee may not incur expenses that would result in the committee's exceeding its approved budget. Upon request from the committee, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall promptly provide the committee chairs and staff with a status report on the committee's budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available funds; and be it further

Sec. 9. Appropriation. Resolved: That the following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

2001-02

LEGISLATURE

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Personal Services	\$2,860
All Other	3,400

Provides funds for the per diem and expenses of members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation to study passenger and freight rail opportunities in Maine and to print the required report.

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TOTAL	<u>\$6,260'</u>
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Further amend the resolve by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

2001-02

APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

General Fund \$6,260

The Legislature will require an additional General Fund appropriation of \$6,260 in fiscal year 2001-02 for the per diem and expenses of members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation to study passenger and freight rail opportunities in Maine and to print the required report.

The additional costs associated with providing staffing assistance to the committee during the interim between legislative sessions can be absorbed by the Legislature utilizing existing budgeted resources. If an extension of the reporting deadline is granted and the committee requires staffing assistance during the legislative session, the Legislature may require an additional General Fund appropriation to contract for staff services.

The Department of Transportation will incur some minor additional costs to provide assistance to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation in its study of rail opportunities in Maine. These costs can be absorbed within the department's existing budgeted resources.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the resolve and directs the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation to study passenger and freight rail opportunities in the State. The committee will examine the feasibility of maintaining and enhancing specific rail corridors such as the east-west and north-south corridors, and it will also examine current and potential state policies to enhance the financial viability of rail service throughout the State. The amendment also adds an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.