

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 881

H.P. 681

House of Representatives, February 15, 2001

**Resolve, Establishing the Blue Ribbon Commission on the East-West
Rail Corridor.**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative JONES of Greenville.
Cosponsored by President MICHAUD of Penobscot and
Representatives: BLANCHETTE of Bangor, BUNKER of Kossuth Township, CLARK of
Millinocket, HALL of Bristol.

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,** the study must be initiated before the 90-day
period expires in order that the study may be completed and a
report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative
8 session; and

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

16 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Blue Ribbon
Commission on the East-West Rail Corridor, referred to in this
18 resolve as the "commission," is established; and be it further

20 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission
consists of the following 12 members:

22 1. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of
24 the Senate;

26 2. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed
by the Speaker of the House, one of whom represents the party
28 with the largest number of members in the House of
Representatives and one of whom represents the party with the 2nd
30 largest number of members in the House of Representatives;

32 3. The Commissioner of Transportation or the commissioner's
designee;

34 4. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee;

36 5. The Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of
38 Maine or the chief executive officer's designee;

40 6. The Director of the Office of Tourism and Community
Development or the director's designee; and

42 7. Four members appointed jointly by the President of the
44 Senate and the Speaker of the House, one to represent each of the
following:

46 A. The aeronautics industry;

48 B. The railroad industry;

2 C. Small businesses; and

4 D. Manufacturers operating along the corridor; and be it
further

6
8 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first named Senate member
is the Senate chair of the commission and the first named House
10 of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission;
and be it further

12 **Sec. 4. Appointments; meetings. Resolved:** That all
14 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the
effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the
16 Legislative Council must be notified by all appointing
authorities once the selections have been made. The chairs of
18 the commission shall call and convene the first meeting of the
commission no later than 15 days after all appointments are made;
and be it further

20 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall examine:

22 1. The feasibility of economic and community development
24 initiatives along an east-west rail corridor in the State;

26 2. The viability of an accessible, readily usable east-west
rail corridor;

28 3. The tourism and manufacturing potential created or
30 enhanced by establishing an east-west rail corridor;

32 4. The potential savings in infrastructure maintenance
created through use of an east-west rail corridor; and

34 5. The possible benefits of combining transportation
36 modalities and establishing comprehensive freight and passenger
services through development of an east-west rail corridor; and
38 be it further

40 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, upon approval of the
Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
42 shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission; and
be it further

44 **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the members of the
46 commission who are Legislators are entitled to the legislative
per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3,
48 section 2, and reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred for
their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission. Other

2 members of the commission who are not otherwise compensated by
their employers or other entities that they represent are
4 entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred
for their attendance at authorized meetings; and be it further

6 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit
its report, together with any necessary implementing legislation,
8 to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature no later
than November 1st. If the commission requires a limited
10 extension of time to conclude its work, it may apply to the
Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it
12 further

14 **Sec. 9. Budget. Resolved:** That the chairs of the commission,
with assistance from the commission staff, shall administer the
16 commission's budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the
commission shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the
18 Legislative Council for approval. The commission may not incur
expenses that would result in the commission exceeding its
20 approved budget. Upon request from the commission, the Executive
Director of the Legislative Council shall promptly provide the
22 commission chairs and staff with a status report on the
commission's budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available
24 funds.

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

30 SUMMARY

32 This resolve establishes a Blue Ribbon Commission on the
East-West Rail Corridor to examine the benefits, feasibility and
34 viability of an east-west rail corridor in the State.