

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 1719

H.P. 1202

House of Representatives, March 23, 2007

### Resolve, To Improve Regional Transportation in Greater Portland

(EMERGENCY)

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BARSTOW of Gorham.  
Cosponsored by Senator STRIMLING of Cumberland and  
Representatives: Speaker CUMMINGS of Portland, DRISCOLL of Westbrook,  
FARRINGTON of Gorham, MARLEY of Portland, PEOPLES of Westbrook, Senator:  
BARTLETT of Cumberland.

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

3       **Whereas,** the purposes of this resolve are to facilitate regional bus transportation for  
4 university students and Greater Portland residents and to implement a regional bus  
5 transportation system by September 1, 2008 with the intention that the system be in place  
6 prior to the commencement of that school year; and

7       **Whereas,** it is necessary to allow the regional transportation working group  
8 established by this resolve at least one year to devise a plan and strategy for regional bus  
9 transportation in the Greater Portland area; and

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

14       **Sec. 1. Greater Portland Council of Governments; regional**  
15 **transportation working group established. Resolved:** That the Greater Portland  
16 Council of Governments shall create a working group for the purposes of merging the  
17 Greater Portland Transit District's bus service and the University of Southern Maine's  
18 commuter bus system between the University of Southern Maine's Portland and Gorham  
19 campuses into one transportation system. This new entity must continue to provide  
20 transportation to University of Southern Maine students, but must also extend Portland's  
21 bus service to the Town of Gorham. The new regional bus transportation system must be  
22 in place by September 1, 2008. The considerations of this working group must include  
23 parking logistics for users of the new bus transportation system between Gorham and  
24 Portland, as well as financial resources that would be necessary to accomplish this  
25 merger; and be it further

26       **Sec. 2. Regional transportation working group; membership. Resolved:**  
27 That the Greater Portland Council of Governments shall invite the participation of  
28 representatives of the following entities in the working group established in section 1: the  
29 Greater Portland Transit District, the University of Southern Maine, the Department of  
30 Transportation, the Town of Gorham, the City of Portland and the City of Westbrook, as  
31 well as other entities the Greater Portland Council of Governments determines necessary;  
32 and be it further

33       **Sec. 3. Implementation. Resolved:** That the Greater Portland Council of  
34 Governments must collaborate with the University of Southern Maine to implement the  
35 new bus transportation system between Gorham and Portland; and be it further

36       **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
37 allocations are made.

38 **ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

39 **Miscellaneous Acts and Resolves**

1 Initiative: Allocations funds on a one-time basis to the University of Southern Maine  
2 under the auspices of the University of Maine System for the purposes of implementing  
3 an expanded bus transportation system in the Greater Portland Area.

4			
5	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>
6	All Other	\$250,000	\$0
7			
8	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$250,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

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

11 **SUMMARY**

12 The resolve directs the Greater Portland Council of Governments to establish a  
13 regional transportation working group to merge the Greater Portland Transit District bus  
14 service with the University of Southern Maine's commuter bus system between the  
15 Portland and Gorham campuses into one transportation system. This resolve allocates  
16 funds from the General Fund for the University of Southern Maine to implement an  
17 expanded bus system in the Greater Portland area.