

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 967

H.P. 669

House of Representatives, March 10, 2009

An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Governor's Interagency Transportation Coordinating Committee

Submitted by the Department of Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative PEOPLES of Westbrook.
Cosponsored by Senator GOOLEY of Franklin and
Representatives: BROWNE of Vassalboro, HARLOW of Portland, HOGAN of Old Orchard
Beach, MAZUREK of Rockland, ROSEN of Bucksport, THERIAULT of Madawaska,
Senator: PERRY of Penobscot.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §4209, sub-§1**, as corrected by RR 2003, c. 2, §83, is amended
3 to read:

4 **1. Geographic regions.** The Department of Transportation shall divide the State
5 into a number of geographic regions for regional distribution of state-administered
6 transportation funds. Upon designation of the geographic regions, a regional public
7 transportation agency must be selected from each region to formulate a biennial regional
8 operations plan. Selection of regional public transportation agencies must be by the
9 Department of Transportation with the consent of the Department of Health and Human
10 Services in collaboration with the committee established in subsection 1-A. The
11 Department of Transportation shall establish a schedule for submittal of the biennial
12 regional operations plan and shall reference these plans in its biennial transportation
13 improvement plan submitted to the Legislature.

14 **Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §4209, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

15 **1-A. Interagency Transportation Coordinating Committee.** The Interagency
16 Transportation Coordinating Committee, referred to in this section as "the committee," is
17 established to promote efficiency, cooperative effort and strategic planning for public
18 transportation between the Department of Transportation, the Department of Labor and
19 the Department of Health and Human Services.

20 A. The committee consists of the Commissioner of Transportation, the
21 Commissioner of Labor and the Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the
22 designees of the commissioners.

23 B. The committee shall meet at least twice each year.

24 C. The Commissioner of Transportation shall designate the chair of the committee.

25 D. The committee shall designate a catchment area for MaineCare transportation
26 providers.

27 E. The committee shall submit a report on its deliberations and any
28 recommendations by February 15th each year to the Governor and the joint standing
29 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public transportation matters.

30 **Sec. 3. 23 MRSA §4209, sub-§2**, as corrected by RR 2003, c. 2, §83, is amended
31 to read:

32 **2. Biennial regional operations plan.** The biennial regional operations plan
33 submitted by each regional public transportation agency must provide for the following:

34 A. Maximum feasible coordination of funds among all state agencies that sponsor
35 transportation in the region;

36 B. Development and maintenance of a permanent and effective public
37 transportation system, with particular regard to riders who are low-income, or elderly
38 and handicapped residents or who have disabilities;

1 C. Participation of private transit operators in the service, to the greatest extent
2 possible; ~~and~~

3 D. Conformity with general operations requirements as may be prescribed by the
4 commissioner; ~~and~~

5 E. Compliance with any appropriate federal regulations, including but not limited to
6 the federally required locally coordinated plan.

7 In years in which no biennial plan is required, amendments to the effective operations
8 may be submitted. Approval of each regional operations plan must be by the Department
9 of Transportation ~~with the consent of the Department of Health and Human Services~~ in
10 collaboration with the committee. Upon approval, all agencies, groups or organizations
11 named to participate in the provision of service in accordance with a regional operations
12 plan are eligible to receive funds administered by the Department of Transportation and
13 the Department of Health and Human Services.

14 **Sec. 4. 23 MRSA §4209, sub-§4,** as corrected by RR 2003, c. 2, §84, is amended
15 to read:

16 **4. Human services assistance; priorities.** ~~A liaison appointed by the Department of~~
17 ~~Health and Human Services~~ The committee shall act to coordinate purchase of service
18 contracts and serve in an advisory capacity to the department in matters concerning
19 public transportation. In the event that transportation funds for human ~~services'~~ services
20 programs are insufficient for full implementation of the human ~~services'~~ services portion
21 of an approved biennial regional operations plan, priorities established by the Department
22 of Health and Human Services determine the priority clients that must be initially served
23 by human ~~services'~~ services funds. ~~The Department of Health and Human Services and~~
24 ~~its agents~~ Members of the committee and their contractors shall actively engage local
25 transportation providers in the planning of new services that are expected to have a
26 transportation component.

27 The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor shall ensure
28 that any new service to be provided is adequately funded to cover the costs of the
29 transportation component of the program.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill establishes in statute the Interagency Transportation Coordinating
32 Committee, which provides oversight and promotes efficiency, cooperative effort and
33 strategic planning for public transportation between the Department of Transportation,
34 the Department of Labor and the Department of Health and Human Services.