

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 1330

H.P. 976

House of Representatives, March 29, 2011

Resolve, To Expand Commuter and Passenger Rail Transportation in Maine

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative CHIPMAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator CRAVEN of Androscoggin and
Representatives: CAIN of Orono, CEBRA of Naples, CUSHING of Hampden, MAZUREK of
Rockland, PEOPLES of Westbrook, SHAW of Standish, WILLETTE of Mapleton, Senator:
DIAMOND of Cumberland.

1 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Northern New England
2 Passenger Rail Authority, as established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section
3 12004-F, subsection 16, shall establish and convene the Maine Commuter and Passenger
4 Rail Advisory Task Force, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," to evaluate and
5 prioritize investments in commuter and passenger rail service between communities in
6 this State in order to expedite development of efficient commuter rail service as
7 appropriate in the major economic and population centers in this State to reduce costs to
8 the State, its municipalities and its citizens of travel to and from work, business activities
9 and entertainment and recreation activities; and be it further

10 **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the Northern New England
11 Passenger Rail Authority shall invite the participation of the following persons on the
12 task force:

13 1. Three regional transportation planners, one each from greater Portland, Lewiston-
14 Auburn and Bangor;

15 2. Three representatives of major private employers, one each from greater Portland,
16 Lewiston-Auburn and Bangor, each representing a different employer;

17 3. Two representatives of groups that have expertise in rail transit in this State;

18 4. One representative of the Department of Transportation who has experience in rail
19 planning;

20 5. One representative who has experience in transit services that are complementary
21 to rail service;

22 6. Two representatives of statewide environmental organizations;

23 7. A representative of a contracting company in this State with expertise and
24 experience in the construction of rail line facilities; and

25 8. Three interested citizens of this State who are informed with respect to rail service
26 issues.

27 A representative of the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority shall serve
28 on the task force; and be it further

29 **Sec. 3. Duties. Resolved:** That the Northern New England Passenger Rail
30 Authority shall convene the task force to meet at least once a month to develop a Maine
31 commuter and passenger rail plan, referred to in this resolve as "the plan." The task force
32 shall research and identify investment priorities for the establishment of commuter and
33 passenger rail service between communities in this State. The plan must be based on
34 existing studies and analyses. The plan must identify the markets and infrastructure and
35 the potential to remove automobile traffic from excessively used roadways. The plan
36 must also provide for the reduction of highway construction and maintenance costs and
37 ways to limit the need for parking facilities, as well as reducing road congestion and
38 lessening transportation costs for citizens living in cities in this State. The commuter rail

1 investment priorities identified by the task force must be included in the plan. The task
2 force shall recommend and include in the plan routes for passenger and commuter rail
3 development; projected operational and capital investment costs; logistical issues;
4 requirements for equipment, operators and track upgrades; and proposed sources of
5 funding. The task force shall make recommendations regarding connections at rail
6 terminal sites linking to bus transit and bicycle, trail and pedestrian access points and
7 routes to destinations from terminals. The task force shall include in the plan total cost
8 estimates and environmental and service quality comparisons to other transportation
9 investments for achieving similar results. These comparisons must include a comparison
10 of rail service to the continued reliance on private motor vehicles and bus service,
11 including the costs of road and bridge construction and maintenance; and be it further

12 **Sec. 4. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Northern New England Passenger
13 Rail Authority shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force; and be it further

14 **Sec. 5. Compensation. Resolved:** That the members of the task force serve
15 without compensation or reimbursement of expenses; and be it further

16 **Sec. 6. Report. Resolved:** That the Northern New England Passenger Rail
17 Authority shall report the findings and the plan of the task force to the Department of
18 Transportation and the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation no later than
19 December 31, 2011. The Joint Standing Committee on Transportation may submit a bill
20 to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature on the subject matter of the report.

21 SUMMARY

22 This resolve directs the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority to establish
23 and convene the Maine Commuter and Passenger Rail Advisory Task Force to evaluate
24 and prioritize investments in commuter and passenger rail service between communities
25 in this State in order to expedite development of efficient commuter rail service as
26 appropriate in the major economic and population centers in this State to reduce costs to
27 the State, its municipalities and its citizens of travel to and from work, business activities
28 and entertainment and recreation activities. The task force must develop a Maine
29 commuter and passenger rail plan, which must include investment priorities for the
30 establishment of commuter and passenger rail service between communities in this State.
31 The plan must be based on existing studies and analyses that explore the markets and
32 infrastructure and the potential to remove automobile traffic from excessively used
33 roadways. The plan must also provide for the reduction of highway construction and
34 maintenance costs and ways to limit the need for parking facilities as well as reducing
35 road congestion and lessening transportation costs for citizens living in cities in this State.
36 The Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority must report the findings and the
37 plan of the task force to the Department of Transportation and the Joint Standing
38 Committee on Transportation no later than December 31, 2011. The Joint Standing
39 Committee on Transportation may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the
40 125th Legislature on the subject matter of the report.