

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 1110

H.P. 771

House of Representatives, March 26, 2015

An Act To Modernize Road User Fees

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Robert B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative McLEAN of Gorham.

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

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 This bill proposes to modernize current state road user fee funding mechanisms to
6 promote equity and sustainability and to yield the predictable funding levels needed to
7 support a safe and reliable highway and bridge system that supports economic
8 opportunity.

9 In order to attain these goals, the bill proposes to require some or all of the following:

10 1. A review and revision, if necessary, of the funding levels, including any
11 anticipated shortfalls, necessary to achieve the highway and bridge capital goals
12 enumerated in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 73, subsection 7, paragraphs
13 A to D;

14 2. A mechanism to address the erosion of Highway Fund receipts that is caused in
15 part by higher automobile fuel efficiency such as registration fee surcharges on electric or
16 hybrid cars or the establishment of a voluntary vehicle miles traveled program that allows
17 a user to self-report the miles traveled and pay a tax based on those miles;

18 3. A method of placing a more equitable share of the costs of the highway system on
19 nonresidents such as reducing baseline fuel tax rates and adding a seasonal gasoline tax
20 surcharge or imposing seasonal electronic tolling;

21 4. Reducing baseline fuel tax rates and adding a wholesale tax component;

22 5. Fuel tax surcharges that are tied to fuel prices or federal fuel taxes and that would
23 be reduced or eliminated as fuel prices or the federal tax increases; and

24 6. The dedication of a portion of sales tax receipts from sales of transportation-
25 related products, such as vehicles and tires, for transportation needs.