

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 500

S.P. 161

In Senate, February 9, 2017

An Act To Allow the Formation of Transportation Corridor Districts

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Heather J.R. Priest'.

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox.
Cosponsored by Representative BEEBE-CENTER of Rockland and
Senators: GRATWICK of Penobscot, JACKSON of Aroostook, Representatives: COOPER of
Yarmouth, DEVIN of Newcastle, KUMIEGA of Deer Isle, RYKERSON of Kittery, WARREN
of Hallowell.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §3501, sub-§1, ¶¶C and D**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737,
3 Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8
4 and 10, are further amended to read:

5 C. A municipality voting to provide mass transportation service without the creation
6 of a district; ~~and~~

7 D. A regional transportation corporation, except that sections 3510, 3512 and 3517
8 do not apply to a regional transportation corporation; and

9 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §3501, sub-§1, ¶E** is enacted to read:

10 E. A transportation corridor district, except that sections 3502 and 3505, section
11 3516, subsections 2 and 3 and section 3517 do not apply to a transportation corridor
12 district.

13 **Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §3501, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

14 **4. Transportation corridor district.** "Transportation corridor district" means a
15 specified area contiguous with a transportation route or facility that has been formed by a
16 municipality or municipalities and approved by the voters as provided under section
17 3502-A.

18 **Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §3502-A** is enacted to read:

19 **§3502-A. Formation of a transportation corridor district; powers**

20 **1. Formation.** A municipality may, in accordance with the requirements of this
21 section, by itself or in cooperation with one or more other municipalities, form a
22 transportation corridor district for the purposes of funding public transportation and
23 accessibility needs, including passenger rail, ferry, bus, bicycle and pedestrian facilities
24 and routes, and promoting economic development at transportation station areas and in
25 downtown areas. A municipality or group of municipalities shall select the borders of the
26 transportation corridor district. The transportation corridor district may include the entire
27 municipality or group of municipalities or a portion of the municipality or portions of the
28 municipalities, but must encompass an existing or proposed transportation corridor.

29 **2. Notice and hearing.** Before forming a transportation corridor district, the
30 municipality or group of municipalities shall hold at least one public hearing on the
31 proposed transportation corridor district in the municipality or in each of the participating
32 municipalities. Notice of the hearing must be published at least 10 days before the
33 hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the municipality or municipalities
34 and on each participating municipality's publicly accessible website if that municipality
35 has a publicly accessible website. The municipality or group of municipalities shall
36 provide notification of the public hearing to all property owners whose property lies
37 within the borders of the proposed transportation corridor district by first-class mail. The
38 municipality or group of municipalities shall provide notification of the public hearing to
39 adjoining municipalities and the Department of Transportation of its proposed

1 transportation corridor district and may coordinate borders with other municipalities
2 along the transportation corridor.

3 **3. Voter approval.** The formation of a transportation corridor district must be
4 approved by a voter referendum in each participating municipality.

5 **4. General powers; area of service.** A transportation corridor district formed under
6 this section is a body politic and corporate and may sue, be sued, plead and be impleaded,
7 adopt a name, adopt and alter a common seal and do all things necessary to furnish
8 transportation within that district, including charter service, for public purposes in the
9 interest of the health, safety, comfort and convenience of the inhabitants of the
10 municipality or municipalities comprising the district.

11 **5. Incidental rights.** All incidental powers, rights and privileges necessary to
12 accomplish the main objective set forth in this chapter are granted to a transportation
13 corridor district formed under this section. Such a district is subject to the jurisdiction of
14 the Public Utilities Commission only to the extent provided in this chapter.

15 **Sec. 5. 30-A MRS §3503**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C,
16 §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is repealed
17 and the following enacted in its place:

18 **§3503. Addition to or modification of a district**

19 **1. Application for membership to a district.** A municipality that is contiguous to
20 any other municipality authorized to provide transportation services under this chapter or
21 contiguous to any municipality that is a member of a transit district may apply to the
22 transit district for membership, and the board of directors may accept or refuse the
23 application for membership.

24 **2. Modification of borders of a transportation corridor district.** The board of
25 directors, with approval from all municipalities in the transportation corridor district, may
26 change the borders of a transportation corridor district.

27 **3. Joining a transportation corridor district.** A municipality with an existing or
28 proposed transportation corridor connecting to an established transportation corridor
29 district may apply to join the transportation corridor district. The municipality applying to
30 join an established transportation corridor district must receive approval by a majority of
31 voters within the municipality at a referendum. The board of directors of the established
32 transportation corridor district, with approval from all municipalities in the district, may
33 approve the municipality's application by a majority vote.

34 **Sec. 6. 30-A MRS §3504, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and
35 Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is
36 further amended to read:

37 The affairs of a district formed under section 3502 ~~shall~~ or 3502-A must be managed
38 by a board of directors chosen from the inhabitants of the municipality or municipalities
39 comprising the district.

1 corridor district be approved by a voter referendum in each participating municipality.
2 The bill authorizes a district's board of directors, with approval from all municipalities in
3 the district, to change the borders of the district. The bill also provides that a
4 transportation corridor district, if approved by voter referendum in each municipality
5 participating in the district, may borrow money temporarily and issue its negotiable notes
6 for that money and issue securities of the district.