

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 6/11/19

TRANSPORTATION

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 700, L.D. 945, Bill, "An Act To Establish a Blue Ribbon Commission To Study and Recommend Funding Solutions for the State's Transportation Systems"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, To Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission To Study and Recommend Funding Solutions for the State's Transportation Systems'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

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

Whereas, this legislation establishes the Blue Ribbon Commission To Study and Recommend Funding Solutions for the State's Transportation Systems; and

Whereas, the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative session; and

Whereas, adequate, sustainable and predictable transportation funding is critical to the safety and economic well-being of all the State's citizens; and

Whereas, funding for transportation infrastructure in the State and the nation is seriously lacking; and

Whereas, the shortfall in funding related to the State's state highway and bridge system is at least \$160 million per year, without consideration of general obligation bonding; and

Whereas, general obligation bonding levels are unpredictable due to the current short-term focus of the process that determines bonding levels and priorities, a process that usually takes place late in a legislative session after finalization of the biennial budget, if at all; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **Whereas**, higher fuel efficiency vehicles and alternative fuel vehicles continue to
2 erode the funding provided by per gallon fuel taxes and increases the inequity between
3 drivers in terms of the fee paid per mile for use of the state highway and bridge system;
4 and

5 **Whereas**, fuel prices are relatively low but will likely rise in the years ahead; and

6 **Whereas**, about 37 million people visit the State each year, which has a year-round
7 population of about 1.3 million people, and the capacity and a significant portion of the
8 cost of the State's transportation systems are driven by seasonal traffic volumes that swell
9 due to our valued visitors from away; and

10 **Whereas**, through years of capital planning, prioritization and efficiency initiatives,
11 the Department of Transportation has proven that it uses funding efficiently and
12 effectively and can be trusted to do so with additional funding; and

13 **Whereas**, federal transportation funding is unpredictable, the federal Fixing
14 America's Surface Transportation Act will expire in 2020 and there is no guarantee, in
15 this federal environment, of a stable funding solution in the future; and

16 **Whereas**, other states are finding transportation funding solutions, the State has an
17 obligation to all the State's citizens to seek funding solutions now; and

18 **Whereas**, a bipartisan blue ribbon commission charged with analyzing options and
19 recommending legislation is the best way to reform and supplement transportation
20 funding in Maine; and

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

25 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Blue Ribbon
26 Commission To Study and Recommend Funding Solutions for the State's Transportation
27 Systems, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

28 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint
29 Rule 353, the commission consists of 15 members as follows:

30 1. Three members appointed by the President of the Senate, at least one of whom is
31 from the minority party in the Senate, including at least one member of the Joint Standing
32 Committee on Transportation, and at least one member of either the Joint Standing
33 Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs or the Joint Standing Committee on
34 Taxation;

35 2. One member appointed by the President of the Senate representing an
36 organization of municipal or public works officials;

37 3. Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, at least
38 one of whom is from the minority party in the House, including at least one member of
39 the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, and at least one member of either the
40 Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs or the Joint Standing
41 Committee on Taxation;

1 4. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
2 representing freight or passenger rail interests;

3 5. One member appointed by the Governor representing an organization advocating
4 for proper maintenance and funding of the State's transportation networks, including
5 construction companies that build and maintain or engineer and design the State's
6 transportation infrastructure;

7 6. One member appointed by the Governor representing an organization advocating
8 for the interests of commercial companies moving bulk goods on the State's road
9 networks;

10 7. One member appointed by the Governor representing an organization advocating
11 for public transportation services;

12 8. One member appointed by the Governor representing bicyclist or pedestrian
13 needs;

14 9. The Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner's designee; and

15 10. The Executive Director of the Maine Turnpike Authority, or the director's
16 designee.

17 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the first-named
18 Senate member of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation and the first-named
19 House member of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation shall serve as cochairs
20 of the commission.

21 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That,
22 notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, all appointments must be made no later than 30 days
23 following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the
24 Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been
25 completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first
26 meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a
27 majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority
28 and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the commission to meet and conduct
29 its business.

30 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study how to reform and
31 adequately supplement funding for the State's transportation infrastructure to promote
32 equity, sustainability and predictability so that the State can responsibly provide safe and
33 reliable state transportation systems. The commission shall focus on funding the state
34 highway and bridge system and shall also develop findings or recommendations on the
35 need and potential funding solutions for multimodal transportation infrastructure.
36 Specific study topics may include, but are not limited to, the following:

37 1. A review related to the funding levels necessary to achieve the capital
38 improvement plan goals set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 73,
39 subsection 7, including anticipated shortfalls for the next 10 years, and a review of
40 whether the capital improvement plan goals set forth in Title 23, section 73, subsection 7
41 are still appropriate and valid;

1 2. Mechanisms to increase the predictability of general obligation bonding levels for
2 capital planning at the Department of Transportation for the state highway and bridge
3 system and multimodal infrastructure for the next 10 years;

4 3. Mechanisms to address the erosion of Highway Fund receipts and the rising
5 inequity between drivers caused by higher automobile fuel efficiency and alternative fuel
6 vehicles such as adding a registration fee surcharge on hybrid, electric or other alternative
7 fuel passenger automobiles;

8 4. A voluntary vehicle miles traveled pilot program for passenger automobiles;

9 5. Methods to more equitably share the costs of the highway system between
10 residents and nonresidents;

11 6. Consideration of new highway tolling opportunities;

12 7. Consideration of dedicating a portion of sales tax receipts from transportation-
13 related sales to fund transportation needs; and

14 8. An increase of state funding for multimodal transportation, including increasing or
15 augmenting the existing funding from the automobile rental sales tax.

16 The commission shall meet up to 6 times over the course of 2019 and shall hold
17 public hearings and review recommendations from the people of the State and qualified
18 experts when appropriate at no fewer than 3 locations throughout the State. The chairs
19 shall also provide the opportunity for knowledgeable stakeholders to submit written
20 comments throughout the study process and to provide oral testimony on the
21 commission's draft recommendations. Knowledgeable stakeholders must include
22 representatives from organizations representing economic development, transportation
23 engineering and construction firms, highway users, the Maine State Chamber of
24 Commerce, municipal and public works organizations, trucking and shipping firms,
25 bicyclists and pedestrians, conservation and environmental professionals and the tourism
26 industry.

27 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the
28 Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission, except
29 that Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular
30 or special session.

31 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, no later than
32 January 3, 2020, the commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and
33 recommendations, including suggested legislation, for presentation to the Joint Standing
34 Committee on Transportation. The Joint Standing Committee on Transportation may
35 submit legislation for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 129th
36 Legislature.

37 **Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
38 appropriations and allocations are made.

39 **LEGISLATURE**

40 **Study Commissions - Funding 0444**

1 Initiative: Allocates funds on a one-time basis for the costs to the Legislature of
2 Legislators participating in the work of the Blue Ribbon Commission To Study and
3 Recommend Funding Solutions for the State's Transportation Systems.

4	HIGHWAY FUND	2019-20	2020-21
5	Personal Services	\$1,540	\$0
6	All Other	\$2,210	\$0
7			
8	HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$3,750	\$0

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

11 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
12 section number to read consecutively.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve that establishes the Blue Ribbon
15 Commission To Study and Recommend Funding Solutions for the State's Transportation
16 Systems. The commission has 15 members. It is required to report on its findings to the
17 Joint Standing Committee on Transportation by January 3, 2020.

18 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

19 **(See attached)**



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 945

LR 1973(02)

An Act To Establish a Blue Ribbon Commission To Study and Recommend Funding Solutions for the State's Transportation Systems

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *A(H-557)*

Committee: Transportation

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Legislative Cost/Study

	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	Projections FY 2021-22	Projections FY 2022-23
Net Cost (Savings)				
Highway Fund	\$3,750	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
Highway Fund	\$3,750	\$0	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Provides a one-time Highway Fund allocation of \$3,750 in fiscal year 2019-20 for the costs to the Legislature of legislators participating in the work of the Blue-Ribbon Commission to Study and Recommend Funding Solutions for the State's Transportation Systems. Additional costs to the Department of Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority associated with serving on the commission can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.