

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 1166

S.P. 354

In Senate, March 7, 2019

**An Act To Require Public Transit To Be Accessible to Blind or
Visually Impaired Riders**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland. (BY REQUEST)
Cosponsored by Representatives: AUSTIN of Skowhegan, COLLINGS of Portland, McLEAN
of Gorham, SHEATS of Auburn, WHITE of Waterville.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §4209-B** is enacted to read:

3 **§4209-B. Automated announcements**

4 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the
5 following terms have the following meanings.

6 A. "Fixed route system" means a transit route that has a predetermined schedule of
7 stops and destinations.

8 B. "Public transportation" means a service operated for the purpose of transporting
9 members of the public as passengers from one destination to another.

10 **2. Automated announcement systems required.** Except as provided in subsection
11 3, all state and municipal vehicles that operate on a fixed route system for the purpose of
12 public transportation must be equipped with an automated announcement system that
13 delivers audible messages to passengers. An automated announcement system must:

14 A. Deliver clear messages in the form of recorded, synthesized or digitized speech;

15 B. Deliver an audible message outside the vehicle at each stop communicating the
16 applicable transit route, destination of the vehicle and the current stop; and

17 C. Deliver an audible message inside the vehicle prior to each stop communicating
18 the applicable transit route, destination of the vehicle and the next stop.

19 **3. Vehicles exempt.** Vehicles that cannot reasonably be equipped with an automated
20 announcement system as determined by the Department of Transportation by rule are
21 exempt from the requirements of subsection 2.

22 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
23 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill requires that all state and municipal vehicles that operate on a fixed route
26 system for the purpose of public transportation must be equipped with an automated
27 announcement system that delivers audible messages to passengers regarding transit
28 route, current and next stop and destination of the vehicle. The bill provides an
29 exemption for vehicles that cannot reasonably be equipped with an automated
30 announcement system.