

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 672

S.P. 258

In Senate, March 4, 2021

**Resolve, To Study the Feasibility of Building a Trail on the
Mountain Division Rail Line**

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on March 2, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 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 BENNETT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative ORDWAY of Standish and
Senator: BRENNER of Cumberland, Representatives: BAILEY of Gorham, WADSWORTH
of Hiram.

1 **Sec. 1. Mountain Division rail line trail study. Resolved:** That the Department
2 of Economic and Community Development shall coordinate with the Department of
3 Transportation and the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to conduct a
4 feasibility study of the costs and benefits of completing a paved multi-use trail on the
5 approximately 28 miles of state-owned railroad track on the Mountain Division Line
6 connecting the Town of Standish and the Town of Fryeburg. The study must consider the
7 following:

- 8 1. Replacing track with a paved multi-use trail;
- 9 2. Construction costs and timeline;
- 10 3. Environmental, health and economic impacts of a complete paved multi-use trail,
11 including outdoor recreation such as biking, walking, running, snowmobiling and Nordic
12 skiing; and
- 13 4. Economic impacts on local businesses and communities and opportunities for new
14 businesses.

15 **Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That, by December 31, 2021, the Department of
16 Economic and Community Development shall submit a report based on its evaluation in
17 section 1 that includes a recommended development plan for completing a paved multi-use
18 trail for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

19 **SUMMARY**

20 This resolve directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to
21 coordinate with the Department of Transportation and the Governor's Office of Policy
22 Innovation and the Future to conduct a feasibility study of the costs and benefits of
23 completing a paved multi-use trail on the approximately 28 miles of state-owned railroad
24 track on the Mountain Division Line connecting the Town of Standish and the Town of
25 Fryeburg. The 28-mile section for review is between 2 sections of trail along the Mountain
26 Division Line that have already been constructed by the Department of Transportation and
27 are in use: a 4-mile paved rail trail in Fryeburg and a 5-mile paved rail trail in Gorham and
28 Windham. The feasibility study will assess the development of a paved multi-use trail as
29 an alternative transportation corridor connecting the communities of Windham, Gorham,
30 Standish, Baldwin, Hiram, Brownfield and Fryeburg and the New Hampshire border. The
31 Department of Economic and Community Development is required to submit a report that
32 includes a recommended development plan for completing a paved multi-use trail by
33 December 31, 2021 for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th
34 Legislature.