

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1534

H.P. 1138

House of Representatives, April 19, 2021

An Act To Preserve and Protect the State's Rail Corridors

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Received by the Clerk of the House on April 15, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative COLLINGS of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §7109** is enacted to read:

3 **§7109. Preservation and protection of rail corridors**

4 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Department of
5 Transportation shall preserve and protect the State's rail corridors for future railroad use
6 and shall maintain all rail corridors in a condition that allows for their resuming railroad
7 service.

8 A rail corridor may not be converted into or operated as a trail, used as a pathway or
9 space for walking or biking, used for any other form of nonmotorized travel or recreation
10 or used as a bus line without first being evaluated for passenger railroad service.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill directs the Department of Transportation to preserve and protect the rail
13 corridors of the State for future railroad use and maintain all rail corridors in a condition
14 that allows for their resuming railroad service.

15 The bill prohibits a rail corridor from being converted into or operated as a trail, used
16 as a pathway or space for walking or biking, used for any other form of nonmotorized travel
17 or recreation or used as a bus line without first being evaluated for passenger railroad
18 service.