MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1170

H.P. 742

House of Representatives, March 14, 2023

Resolve, to Promote Passenger Rail for Commuters

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

R(+ B. Hunt

Presented by Representative O'NEIL of Saco. Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and Representatives: MALON of Biddeford, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, SACHS of Freeport, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, Senators: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, INGWERSEN of York, PIERCE of Cumberland.

- 1 Sec. 1. Study by Department of Transportation. Resolved: That the 2 Department of Transportation shall, in coordination with the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority, conduct a study to evaluate improvements to the passenger rail 3 4 service between Brunswick and Boston, referred to in this resolve as "the service." The study must identify potential changes to the service to facilitate commuting by rail and to 5 increase the overall usability of the service. 6 7 1. The study must: 8 A. Examine the level of departure frequency needed to service the majority of 9 commuters on the service; 10 B. Evaluate the frequency of train departure times and identify the specific measures 11 required to achieve additional departure times; 12
 - C. Identify the optimal schedule needed to accommodate commuters and increase overall usability of the service. This section of the study must include an evaluation of peak use by commuters and design a schedule catering to peak use;
 - D. Take into consideration local transit and parking options in coordination with the proposed schedule or schedules;
 - E. Identify optimal trip times for the service that would be competitive with the average driving time between Brunswick and Boston, including specific measures to reduce the trip duration and to reduce delays in order to make trip duration comparable to a drive;
 - F. Identify any potential station locations that may increase access to the service;
 - G. Address improvements to the rail system used by the service;
 - H. Address improvements to the operation of the service; and
 - I. Evaluate the economic impact of increasing the number of trips offered by the service.
 - 2. The Department of Transportation shall submit a report on the study to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over railroad matters by January 1, 2024.

28 SUMMARY

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This resolve directs the Department of Transportation, in coordination with the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority, to conduct a study to evaluate improvements to the passenger rail service between Brunswick and Boston.