

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1750

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S.P. 695

In Senate, April 20, 2023

**Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Complete a Service Plan and Determine the Scope of Work for Restoration of Rail Use of the Berlin Subdivision Rail Corridor from Downtown Portland to Auburn**

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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.  
Cosponsored by Representative WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor and  
Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, NANGLE of Cumberland, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin,  
Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, ANKELES of Brunswick, O'CONNELL of Brewer,  
THERIAULT of Fort Kent, WHITE of Guilford.

1           **Sec. 1. Department of Transportation to complete plans; Berlin**  
2 **Subdivision Rail Corridor. Resolved:** That the Department of Transportation shall  
3 conduct a study that includes a service plan and scope of work plan for the section of the  
4 Berlin Subdivision Rail Corridor between downtown Portland and Auburn for restoration  
5 of the rail corridor to a minimum of Class 3 interurban light rail operating conditions. The  
6 service plan and scope of work plan must satisfy legal and United States Department of  
7 Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration requirements for crossing the CSX  
8 Transportation main line corridor and for shared corridor use to downtown Lewiston and  
9 through Danville Junction on the Genesee & Wyoming railroad to a station site at or near  
10 the Auburn-Lewiston Airport. The study must include proposed community train station  
11 locations and appropriate multimodal use of the rail corridor including trail use. The service  
12 plan must include an examination of the feasibility of applying for federal capital  
13 improvements grants to restore the rail corridor.

14           **Sec. 2. Establishment of advisory committee; duties. Resolved:** That the  
15 Commissioner of Transportation shall establish an advisory committee to advise the  
16 Department of Transportation in undertaking its responsibilities under section 1.

17           1. The Commissioner of Transportation shall appoint at least 9 but no more than 15  
18 members to the advisory committee, including from among the following:

- 19           A. A person representing the Transit Oriented Development Institute;
- 20           B. A person representing the Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce;
- 21           C. A person representing the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce;
- 22           D. A person representing the Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce;
- 23           E. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development;
- 24           F. A person representing the Greater Portland Council of Governments or the Portland  
25 Area Comprehensive Transportation System;
- 26           G. A person representing the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments or the  
27 Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center;
- 28           H. A person representing a state agency other than the Department of Transportation;
- 29           I. A person representing an organization advocating for rail use;
- 30           J. A person representing an organization advocating for nonrail or recreational trail  
31 interests; and
- 32           K. Persons with expertise in rail logistics or infrastructure.

33           2. The Commissioner of Transportation shall designate the chair of the advisory  
34 committee. The Department of Transportation shall provide staff support to the advisory  
35 committee. The advisory committee may adopt policies to effectively govern its  
36 proceedings. The advisory committee shall meet at the call of the chair and hold a minimum  
37 of one public hearing located in the geographic area along the rail corridor between  
38 Portland and Auburn.

39           3. Within 9 months of convening its first meeting, the advisory committee shall submit  
40 a report to the Department of Transportation on its findings and recommendations

1 regarding the service plan and scope of work plan developed pursuant to section 1. The  
2 advisory committee terminates upon the submission of its report to the department.

3 **Sec. 3. Report.** Within 30 days of receiving the report under section 2, subsection  
4 3, the Department of Transportation shall submit a report to the joint standing committee  
5 of the Legislature having jurisdiction over railroad matters on the actions of the department  
6 taken under section 1, including the development of the service plan and scope of work  
7 plan under section 1 and any recommendations for suggested legislation. After reviewing  
8 the report, the joint standing committee may report out a bill to implement any of the  
9 recommendations included in the report.

## 10 SUMMARY

11 This resolve directs the Department of Transportation to complete a study that includes  
12 a service plan and scope of work plan for the section of the Berlin Subdivision Rail Corridor  
13 between downtown Portland and Auburn for restoration of the rail corridor to a minimum  
14 of Class 3 interurban light rail operating conditions. The plans must satisfy legal and  
15 United States Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration requirements  
16 for crossing the CSX Transportation main line corridor and for shared corridor use to  
17 downtown Lewiston and through Danville Junction on the Genesee & Wyoming railroad  
18 to a station site at or near the Auburn-Lewiston Airport. The study must include proposed  
19 community train station locations and appropriate multimodal use of the rail corridor  
20 including trail use.

21 The resolve requires the Commissioner of Transportation to establish an advisory  
22 committee to advise the department in undertaking its responsibilities regarding the service  
23 plan and scope of work plan. Within 9 months of convening its first meeting, the advisory  
24 committee is required to submit a report to the department on its findings and  
25 recommendations regarding the service plan and scope of work plan. The department is  
26 required to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having  
27 jurisdiction over railroad matters on the actions taken by the department, including the  
28 development of the plans and recommendations for suggested legislation. After reviewing  
29 the report, the joint standing committee may report out a bill to implement any of the  
30 recommendations included in the report.