

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

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Legislative Document

No. 2062

S.P. 849

In Senate, December 17, 2025

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### An Act to Enhance the Safety of Public Transit Bus Operators Through the Installation of Vehicle Security Barriers

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Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 15, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DAREK M. GRANT".

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland.

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. Public transit bus vehicle security barriers**

4        **1. Short title.** This section may be known and cited as "the Public Transit Bus  
5        Operator Safety Act."

6        **2. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the  
7        following terms have the following meanings.

8        **A. "Fund"** means the Public Transit Bus Operator Safety Fund established in  
9        subsection 4.

10        **B. "Public transit agency"** means an entity, including a municipal, regional or state  
11        authority, that operates public transportation services within the State.

12        **C. "Public transit bus"** means a motor vehicle, as defined in Title 29-A, section 101,  
13        subsection 42, that is designed to carry more than 15 persons, including the public  
14        transit bus operator, and that is operated by a public transit agency or by a private  
15        company contracted to provide public transit service on behalf of a public transit  
16        agency.

17        **D. "Public transit bus operator"** means an individual employed to operate a public  
18        transit bus.

19        **E. "Vehicle security barrier"** means a transparent, protective partition made of hard,  
20        durable materials that:

21        **(1) Is capable of fully enclosing the public transit bus operator's workstation and  
22        of preventing the unwanted entry of individuals, fluids and objects into the  
23        workstation;**

24        **(2) Does not impede the public transit bus operator's lines of sight from the  
25        workstation to the exterior of the public transit bus; and**

26        **(3) Allows the public transit bus operator to maintain communications with  
27        passengers.**

28        **3. Mandatory installation of vehicle security barriers.** In accordance with the  
29        timeline and standards established under this subsection, a public transit agency shall install  
30        or arrange for the installation of vehicle security barriers in all public transit buses.

31        **A. The department, in consultation with public transit agencies, labor organizations  
32        representing public transit bus operators and joint labor-management safety  
33        committees, if any, shall establish through rulemaking minimum standards for vehicle  
34        security barriers. Such standards must address the design, materials and installation  
35        specifications of vehicle security barriers.**

36        **B. When procuring vehicle security barriers and any other materials funded by the fund,  
37        a public transit agency shall consult with a labor organization representing the public  
38        transit agency's public transit bus operators and a joint labor-management safety  
39        committee, if the public transit agency is party to such a committee.**

40        **C. A public transit bus that does not have a vehicle security barrier installed may not  
41        be operated on or after August 1, 2029.**

1           **4. Public Transit Bus Operator Safety Fund.** The Public Transit Bus Operator  
2           Safety Fund is established within the department as a nonlapsing fund to provide grants to  
3           public transit agencies for the purchase, installation and maintenance of vehicle security  
4           barriers. Beginning August 1, 2029, the fund may provide grants to public transit agencies  
5           for expenditures, other than for vehicle security barriers, to improve transit bus operator  
6           safety, and a public transit agency may apply for such a grant as determined jointly by the  
7           public transit agency and a labor organization representing public transit bus operators and  
8           a joint labor-management safety committee, if any. The fund consists of money received  
9           as appropriations, allocations and contributions from public and private sources.

10           **5. Reporting requirements.** Before August 1, 2027, 2028 and 2029, each public  
11           transit agency shall submit an annual report to the department regarding the progress of the  
12           public transit agency in installing vehicle security barriers as required by this section. Each  
13           report must set forth the steps that the public transit agency has taken to comply with the  
14           requirements to install vehicle security barriers, the tasks remaining for the public transit  
15           agency to complete in order to achieve full compliance and an estimated completion date  
16           for each of these tasks. The department shall make the reports required under this  
17           subsection available to the public within 30 days of receiving the reports.

18           **6. Rules.** The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted  
19           pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,  
20           subchapter 2-A.

21           **Sec. 2. Department of Transportation to establish standards for vehicle  
22           security barriers in public transit buses.** Before February 1, 2027, the Department  
23           of Transportation shall establish through rulemaking minimum standards for vehicle  
24           security barriers in public transit buses in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes,  
25           Title 23, section 4209-B, subsection 3.

26           **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
27           allocations are made.

## 28           **TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

### 29           **Public Transit Bus Operator Safety Fund N559**

30           Initiative: Provides one-time funding to the Public Transit Bus Operator Safety Fund within  
31           the Department of Transportation to provide grants to public transit agencies for the  
32           purchase, installation and maintenance of vehicle security barriers.

33 <b>GENERAL FUND</b>	34 <b>2025-26</b>	35 <b>2026-27</b>
36           All Other		\$0           \$2,000,000
36           GENERAL FUND TOTAL		\$0           \$2,000,000

## 37           **SUMMARY**

38           This bill requires public transit agencies, including municipal, regional and state  
39           authorities, that operate public transportation services within the State to install vehicle  
40           security barriers that enclose the public transit bus operator's workstation and prevent the  
41           unwanted entry of individuals, fluids and objects into the workstation. The bill directs the  
42           Department of Transportation to establish minimum standards for vehicle security barriers  
43           and establishes the Public Transit Bus Operator Safety Fund to provide grants to public

1 transit agencies for the purchase, installation and maintenance of vehicle security barriers.  
2 Beginning August 1, 2029, the fund may also provide grants for expenditures to improve  
3 public transit bus operator safety. In establishing minimum standards and other uses of the  
4 fund, the bill requires consultation with labor organizations representing public transit bus  
5 operators and joint labor-management safety committees.