

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
CONNECTME AUTHORITY  
78 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0078**

January 22, 2024

Honorable Troy D. Jackson  
President of the Senate  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross  
Speaker of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority due by February 1, 2024.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Cohen", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. James Cohen  
Chairman  
Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patricia Quinn", written over a horizontal line.

Ms. Patricia Quinn  
Executive Director  
Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority



**A Report to the Maine State Legislature**

**regarding**

**Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority  
pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A. Section 12023**

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**

**5 M.R.S.A. Section 12023**

**Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority**



## **Introduction**

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A. Section 12023, as a quasi-independent state entity, the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority is required to prepare and submit an annual report. The section states that:

*“2. Ongoing Reports. By February 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, a governing body shall submit a report to the Legislature containing the following information:*

- A. A list of all procurements exceeding \$10,000 in the preceding year for which competitive procurement was waived under the policies adopted pursuant to section 12022, subsection 3, including procurements exceeding \$10,000 that were made under contracts previously entered into for which competitive procurement was not required. The list must include the names of the vendors and costs associated with those procurements;*
- B. A list of all persons to which the entity made contributions greater than \$1,000 in the preceding year and the total amount contributed to each; and*
- C. A description of changes made in the preceding year to the written policies and procedures required by section 12022 or to the procedures used by the governing body to monitor compliance with those policies and procedures.”*

This report contains the required information to satisfy subsection 2(A), (B), and (C).

## **Background**

The Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA) is a public transportation authority created in 1995 by the Maine State Legislature to develop and provide passenger rail service for Maine. Our mission is to develop and manage a quality passenger rail system that meets the transportation needs of our customers, delivers value and enhances economic development within the region we serve. NNEPRA manages Amtrak’s Downeaster service as well as providing oversight with other entities to provide station, food service, and marketing support.

Today as a result of a series of investments and improvements, the Downeaster operates five round trips daily between Brunswick, ME and Boston, MA along a 143-mile corridor serving 12 stations in three states with a travel time of three hours and 20 minutes. The Downeaster is an integral part of Maine’s transportation network linking six station communities – Brunswick, Freeport, Portland, Old Orchard Beach, Saco, and Wells - within Maine.

The NNEPRA team is committed to the sustained growth of the Amtrak Downeaster and is exploring innovative ways to improve mobility, advance safety, support a growing economy and provide value for the people of Maine and Northern New England.



**Subsection 2 (A): Procurements Exceeding \$10,000 – Competitive Procurement Waived**

The table below provides a list of all procurements exceeding \$10,000 for which the competitive process was waived during the preceding fiscal year, July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.

**§ 12023 Reports to the Legislature Subsection 2(A)  
Procurements Exceeding \$10,000 - Competitive Procurement Waived  
July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Vendor Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Procurement Method (Justification is on file at NNEPRA's Office)</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
6/14/2023	Farrell, Rosenblatt, Russell	\$21,071.00	Legal Services - Available only from one source	5307 Formula Grant

**Subsection 2 (B): Contributions Exceeding \$1,000**

The table below provides a list of all contributions exceeding \$1,000 during the preceding fiscal year, July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.

**Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority  
§ 12023 Reports to the Legislature Subsection 2B  
Contributions Exceeding \$1,000  
July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Over \$1,000 - Sponsorship</b>	<b>Over \$1,000 - Membership Dues</b>
2/6/2023	States for Passenger Rail Coalition - Dues	\$0.00	\$7,000.00
8/15/2022	TrainRiders Northeast	\$1,600.00	\$0.00

**Subsection 2 (C): Changes to Written Policies and Procedures**

There were no changes made in the preceding year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, to the written policies and procedures required by section 12022 or to the procedures used by the governing body to monitor compliance with those policies and procedures.